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The Queen's 50th birthday
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The day of the wedding

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Passions flare over Lords reform

Cheering breaks tradition of silence

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE future of the Lords was established yesterday as the battlefield for the next political year as tensions erupted in both Houses of Parliament over the Government's plan to strip 750 hereditary peers of their voting rights.

After a Queen's speech announcing 22 Bills ranging from welfare reform to trade on the Internet, Tony Blair and William Hague clashed furiously over Lords reform, with Mr Hague saying that it would hang like a millstone round Mr Blair's neck and the Prime Minister declaring that he would kill the Tory claim to a "divine right" to govern.

Their Commons confrontation followed unusual events in the Lords, where the Queen's speech was interrupted for the first time in the modern age. She is usually heard in silence, but her announcement of the plans for the Lords was greeted by cheers from Labour peers and MPs, and murmurings of disapproval — either about their fate or the breach with tradition — from Tory peers. The Queen, apparently surprised, looked up briefly before continuing.

It was an illustration of the anger on both sides in both Houses for what may turn out to be the ultimate constitutional confrontation. And while Mr Blair led a determined offensive to focus attention on other measures, Labour strategists admitted that the way the Lords behaved in the face of their own destruction would dominate the session.

The issue has clearly influenced the shape of the pro-



Lady Haden-Guest, better known as Jamie Lee Curtis, with Lords Cockfield, St John of Fawsley, Monteagle, Evans of Watford, Rosslyn, Tomlinson and Ahmed, and Lady Munster

gramme with at least five substantial Bills — on food standards, elected mayors, freedom of information, a strategic rail authority and political funding — held over. Paddy Ashdown complained that too much was being held over for another time: "This Queen's speech kicks so much off the field that after it there will be standing room only in the long grass."

Ministers have already conceded that without help from Tory peers their Bill to introduce PR for the European elections next year cannot get through in time. The Lords' Bill itself will contain only a handful of clauses and will not enter Parliament until next

year. But no one can be sure how peers' attitude to the Bill ending their voting rights will spill over into obstruction on other government measures.

Mr Hague was roared on by Tory MPs as he accused Mr Blair of wanting to neuter the Lords and replace the "independent" second chamber with a "House of cronies".

The Government was setting up a Royal Commission on the Lords that was expected to report within two years, Mr Hague said, and should wait to see what would replace the existing arrangements before changing them. He was warning the whole of the coming year on a "piece of constitutional vandalism that will be obso-

lescent in just 24 months". Mr Blair said that it simply could not be right for the Lords to be dominated by 750 hereditaries out of a total of 1,100.

Of those who took the whip the vast bulk were Tories, ensuring that one House in the two-House system was permanently in their hands. "It is time to end the feudal domination of one half of our legislature by a Tory Party that claims a divine right to govern this country," he said.

The Government will bring in a White Paper setting out new arrangements for appointing life peers. Under the proposals, Mr Blair will relinquish the Prime Minister's sole right of patronage and es-

tablish a Royal Commission to review further changes and suggest reforms.

In the Lords, Baroness Jay urged peers not to obstruct the reform. But Viscount Cranborne, the Opposition Leader, said the announcement of the Bill had tinged the State Opening with "great sadness". He said: "Emotions will certainly run high, and the measured judgment in great matters that the public has come to expect of your Lordships' House, will require an extra effort of will by all of us."

THE MAIN BILLS

Health: end the NHS internal market and replace GP fund-holding.
Welfare: all benefit claimants to attend a job interview; more targeting of benefits; first stage of pension reforms.
Crime: overhaul of youth courts; greater protection to vulnerable witnesses.
House of Lords: remove voting rights of hereditary peers.
Access to Justice: give solicitors wider access to higher courts; more targeted legal aid; give private security firms power to arrest fine defaulters.
Fairness to Work: new rights for workers including automatic union recognition where 40 per cent of the workforce want it or where 50 per cent are union members.
Asylum and Immigration: crackdown on asylum seekers, replacing cash handouts with benefits in kind to deter bogus applicants.
Age of Consent: lower the age of homosexual consent from 18 to 16 in line with that for heterosexuals.
London: set up mechanisms for a directly-elected mayor of London and Greater London Authority.

Hague accused of 'gutter' sneer

By ROLAND WATSON
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PETER Mandelson's advisers last night accused William Hague of "entering the gutter" after the Tory leader used the opening of the Parliamentary session to make a veiled reference to allegations about the Trade Secretary's private life.

Mr Hague's decision stunned MPs gathered in the Commons to hear the Leader of the Opposition's keynote address replying to the Queen's Speech. During a rhetorical assault about the reformed House of Lords becoming a chamber of "Tony's cronies", Mr Hague said the future upper House would include "Lord Mandelson of Rio".

It was a reference to an article in last week's *Punch* claiming that Mr Mandelson had visited a gay nightclub — a claim denied by the minister.

Last night a friend of Mr Mandelson said: "Mr Hague has in the past refrained from entering the gutter occupied by so many of his colleagues." Mr Hague's office defended the comment as "a little bit of light entertainment".

The reference to Rio was in the text of Mr Hague's speech, written by the Tory leader. He also mentioned "Lord Draper of Lobbygate", a reference to Derek Draper, the former lobbyist, and "Lord Robinson of Offshore Funds in the Island of Guernsey", a reference to Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General.

A spokesman for Mr Hague said the reference to Mr Mandelson was "just a reference to a place that he likes to visit".

Duma reformer is buried

Galina Starovoitova, the murdered Duma deputy, was buried in St Petersburg's Alexander Nevsky Monastery. Leading pro-democracy politicians joined her family and friends and hundreds of supporters mourned quietly in the streets outside. Page 18

Sir John Major

John Major is to become a Knight of the Garter, replacing Lord Hunt. He will be installed next April, on St George's Day. Page 22

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Up in smoke: the Toyota Corolla catches fire within sight of the finish of the rally

Rally driver burns out 300 metres from glory

By KEVIN EASON

CARLOS SAINZ has pursued the World Rally Championship for almost 15,000 miles across the sand, mud and gravel of five continents. Yesterday, he was 300 metres from triumph when the engine of his car burst into flames and stopped.

It was a moment to rank in the pantheon of great sporting disasters, with the heart-broken Spaniard able to see the finishing post of the Network Q Rally of Great Britain through the mud-spattered windscreen of his Toyota Corolla, yet helpless to stagger past it.

While Sainz contemplated his misfortune, the new champion was also disconsolate. Knowing nothing of the disaster, Tommi Makinen had packed his bags and was preparing to fly home to Finland. Makinen had come to Britain to defend a two-point lead in the 13-rally championship only to fall victim to equally bi-

zarre circumstances. A 31-year-old Hillman Imp dumped its engine oil on the circuit within a few miles of the start on Sunday and Makinen skidded on the slick, smashed into a concrete block and wrecked his Mitsubishi Lancer.

That meant Sainz had to come only fourth to claim the championship for the third time. For three days, it was a virtual cruise, that fourth place secure, and yesterday spectators waited in the sunshine at Margam Park in South Wales to cheer him home...and waited.

The leaders tore through the grassland to finish the 1,100-mile rally, but their first sight of Sainz was when his car coasted to a halt, flames spurting from the bonnet.

The inconsolable Spaniard clambered out and burst into tears. His co-driver, Luis Moya, at least gave vent to his frustration, kicking the stranded car before tearing off his helmet and hurling it at the smoke-blackened bodywork.

"The first man on the mobile telephone was Tuomo Makinen, who had watched incredulously and was just in time to catch his brother carrying his bags down to his airport taxi. "He said, 'Don't go, don't go. You have won,' the champion said. "I told him to stop joking. I could not believe what had happened. I had given up and just wanted to go home. It must be terrible for Carlos."

So terrible that Sainz was unable to speak through his emotions and retreated to the sanctuary of his hotel.

Major Eric Joyce, who has been in dispute with the Army since publishing a controversial pamphlet in August last year criticising the "elite" in the Service, is to be told to resign or face "administrative discharge".

All the senior officers involved in his chain of command, including General Sir Michael Walker, the Commander-in-Chief Land Command, have recommended the two-option ultimatum and the matter is now in the hands of the Army Board.

The 38-year-old officer with the Adjutant General's Corps, who was sent home in February on full pay, has been invited to appear before the Army Board on December 18.

The board, which is the Army's senior decision-making body, is expected to concur with the opinion of Major Joyce's commanding officer that he leave the Service.

Last night Major Joyce said he had not made up his mind whether to accept the Army Board's invitation. "If I decide I want to fight to stay in the Army, then I shall obviously take the opportunity to address the board. But if I decide to resign then I won't."

He said: "I have been in the Army now for 20 years and it would be a pity to end my career by being forced out. The whole process of administrative discharge is archaic and outmoded and I feel I'm being unfairly treated."

Ever since the publication of his article in a Fabian Society pamphlet in which he accused the Army of maintaining a

Major critical of Army social 'elite' faces discharge

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

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Major Joyce: "I feel I'm being unfairly treated"

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In tears: co-driver Moya



Briton triumphs, page 50

LSE faces revolt over plan to raise fees

By VICTORIA FLETCHER

ONE of Tony Blair's leading academic advisers faced a student revolt last night after proposing a 30 per cent rise in tuition fees at the London School of Economics.

Anthony Giddens, who is director of the LSE, said the rise from £5,500 to £7,150 for British postgraduates would bring the fees more in line with those paid by overseas students.

But, in a demonstration reminiscent of the LSE's years as a hotbed of radicalism in the 1960s, students and lecturers said the rise would deter British postgraduates, and would be widely interpreted as a test-bed for increasing university income by squeezing more money from students.

Professor Giddens is a political sociologist known to be in regular contact with the Prime Minister. In September, he accompanied Mr Blair to America for a seminar with President Clinton on how the United States had interpreted the "third way" and how more flesh could be put on the new political philosophy.

The plans are part of a package to be examined over the coming weeks by the governing body of the LSE. Overseas students who already pay more than £9,000 per year for the course will only have their fees raised in line with the 3.5 per cent basic rate of inflation.

Last night the 30 students at the demonstration accused their governing body of trading education for financial reward. Narius Aga, the general secretary of the student union, said: "This would create a very dangerous intake based on financial and not academic means. We are astounded that LSE are considering it and, if they are wanting to compete with Oxbridge, this is not the way forward."

A spokeswoman for the Association of University Teachers said that the proposals were the first in what could become

a worrying trend in education. "This is the first. It won't be the last. Universities will make postgraduates pay however they can if they are desperate for money. It will put education solely into the hands of those who can pay," she said.

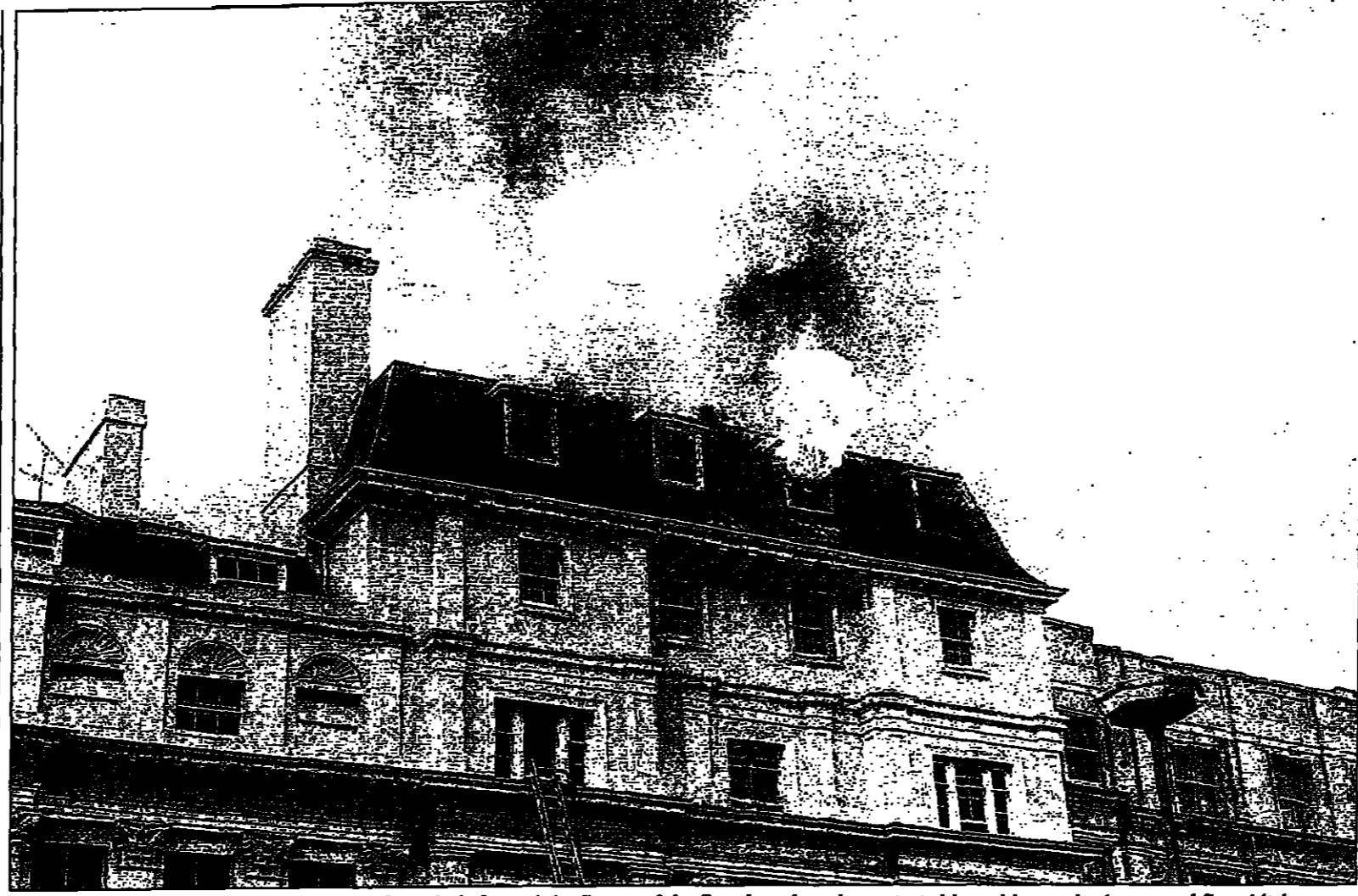
However, Professor Giddens insisted that the LSE had made no firm decisions and was still looking "at all options" for addressing funding.

He added: "We must not do anything to penalise UK students and I hope there will not be too much dissension. We are already concerned to expand access and we are looking to drive more fund-raising for scholarships."

In 1960s there were protests at the LSE over the right for access to information and for students to be given more of a voice. Even Baroness Blackstone, then a junior lecturer and now the Higher Education Minister in the Lords, became involved in a sit-in.

Many former alumni have become famous, and include Karl Popper, William Beveridge, John F. Kennedy and Cherie Blair.

The LSE Standing Committee met to discuss the plans for the first time last night, and agreed to refer the issue back for further consultation on the grounds that it had not established whether higher fees would deter students and effect access. If this were found to be the case, the committee decided, an increase in hardship funds would also have to be introduced.



The Royal Albion Hotel in Brighton. Sea winds fanned the flames of the fire, thought to have started in a chip pan in the ground-floor kitchen

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A COUPLE slept on for more than three hours as the hotel at which they were staying was burning down around them. They did not leave their first-floor room until the fire had spread to all five floors.

When the middle-aged couple, booked in under the name of Burton, eventually rushed out of the front of the Royal Albion Hotel in Brighton, onlookers and hotel staff

Couple slept on for hours as hotel burnt around them

said that they were lucky to be alive. They were directed to the nearby Thistle Hotel along with their guests, many of whom were still in their nightclothes, but they left soon afterwards.

They were among 120

guests and 30 staff evacuated without injury from the 115-bedroom hotel which dates back 170 years and is partially Grade II listed.

Strong sea winds had fanned the flames, and firefighters had to pump water

from the sea to tackle the fire. Emergency services cleared hundreds of onlookers away from the seafront as huge chunks of masonry and tiles crashed to the ground.

The hotel was staging a civil servants' union conference

when fire broke out just after 8am yesterday. It is believed to have started when a chip pan in a ground-floor kitchen caught fire and spread through a ventilation shaft to the top of the building.

Caroline Day, 28, one of the guests, last night criticised the evacuation procedures. Ms Day, who was in a room on the fourth floor, said that she had not been alerted by the hotel alarm, which sounded like a car alarm.

Tory leader hints at Mandelson mystery

By CAROL MIDDLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

FOUR words spoken by the Tory leader William Hague finally gave voice yesterday to one of the worst-kept secrets in Westminster.

Standing at the despatch box, Mr Hague made the first oblique reference in Parliament to allegations about Peter Mandelson's private life which have appeared in the latest issue of *Punch* magazine.

National newspapers, television and radio have pointedly avoided repeating the claims which, since the *Trade Secretary's* alleged activities whilst on a ministerial trip to

Brazil, Mr Hague dropped what was being regarded by MPs as a minor bombshell as he mocked the Prime Minister's move to abolish hereditary peers' voting rights in the House of Lords.

With a look of defiance the Opposition leader said: "He wants to create a House of Cronies beholden to him and him alone. It would be a House populated by Lord Draper of Lobbygate, Lord Robinson of Offshore Funds, Lord Mandelson of Rio and the Prime Minister himself, Baron of Ideas."

ITN broadcast the soundbite on its early evening news but did not seek to explain Mr Hague's reference to Rio and the Trade Secretary. The only view-

ers who may have understood the reference would have been regular readers of *Punch* or those who managed to catch the first edition of *The Daily Telegraph* last Wednesday.

The newspaper had run a story alluding to the allegations in *Punch* which concerned Mr Mandelson's homosexuality and the visit to Brazil in July. Without giving any detail, *The Daily Telegraph* claimed that the magazine article was highly actionable and amounted to a direct challenge to sue.

However, the story was pulled after Mr Mandelson's aide telephoned the newspaper to advise them that the story was "utterly untrue". Mr Mandelson's private

life has been the subject of national debate since *The Times* columnist Matthew Parris described him as "certainly gay" in response to a question from Jeremy Paxman on BBC2's *Newsnight*. *The Express* on Sunday revived the story with a report entitled Peter's Friend which described in careful language Mr Mandelson's association with a Brazilian student now living in Japan. The student was said to have been close to John Major's former Downing Street adviser Howell James.

The paper's Editor in Chief, Rosie Boycott, a neighbour of Mr Mandelson, insisted the article was read to him before publication.

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British TV triumphs at Emmies

BRITISH television productions, including BBC's *The Vicar of Dibley*, have captured half the major titles at the International Emmy Awards, which honour the best shows made outside America.

The comedy won the Popular Arts category for the final episode of the most recent series, which were made for the BBC by Tiger Aspect Productions. It was one of two BBC shows in the shortlist for the title - the other being BBC2's *Goodness Gracious Me*.

Dawn French, who stars in *The Vicar of Dibley*, said: "I would like to bless everybody involved and I am pleased that my plan of sleeping with all the judges from the four corners of the world clearly paid off."

Newsman denies 'dumbing down'

TREVOR McDONALD made a public pledge yesterday that ITV's new early evening news programme would not be "a dumbed-down version" of *News at Ten*, which will be taken off the air in January.

Responding to the Labour MP Gerald Kaufman's assertion that the Independent Television Commission's decision to axe the 31-year-old programme was a "milestone in the dumbing down of Britain", Mr McDonald said that the new 6.30pm bulletin would be as good as, if not better than, *News at Ten*.

Mr McDonald, who will host the new 30-minute programme, to be called *The Evening News*, said that it would be a serious news bulletin which would rival the BBC's *Six O'Clock News*.

How resea

Some 550 families living near two nuclear power stations in Somerset have been sent protective tablets to take in case of a nuclear accident. Packets of potassium iodate, which protect against radioactive iodine, have been distributed in Sturgesley, near the Hinkley Point site. A spokesman said that it was not because of increased risk of an accident.

Singer is freed

The rock musician Ian Brown was released from prison on bail pending an appeal against his conviction and four-month prison sentence for using threatening behaviour on an aircraft.

Hague flies to bird-breeder's aid

WILLIAM HAGUE has become embroiled in a dispute over the status of an aviary full of rare cockatoos and macaws.

Some of them have, like the original Monty Python parrot, passed away since Customs and Excise began to investigate Harry Sissen, a prominent bird breeder in Mr Hague's North Yorkshire constituency.

Mr Sissen was raided in the spring by officials in search of illegally imported parrots. Scores of birds worth a total of £200,000, including a number of endangered varieties, were seized.

Mr Sissen, 60, claims that at least five of the birds, which can fetch thousands of pounds each on a thriving world black market, have since died. The rest of his stock of about 500 birds has been impounded at the aviary.

In the course of a consultation with his MP on the matter, Mr Sissen admitted smuggling three Lear's macaws,

since he began breeding 35 years ago. Yesterday he headed off an attempt by a Customs vet and officials to take blood samples that could help to identify the origin of eight birds which are endangered breeds.

At his farm outside North-allerton he persuaded the vet that taking the samples in the afternoon would disturb the birds' pattern and could lead to their deaths. After he quoted Environment Department reg-

ulations which say that sampling should only be done in the morning, the Customs men retired, promising to return on Monday before noon.

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Playbo

Robin Young

Fears grow little girl for two nig

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NEWS IN B
3 hurt
helicopter
crashes

Three men were injured seriously when a helicopter crashed in thick fog in an area...

Body in pond

The body of a woman was found in the Italian Fontaine...

Pinochet warrant

A warrant to arrest Pinochet has been issued by the Chilean...

Cruelty charge

A woman has been charged with cruelty after her dog was found...

Two rail strikes

Two rail strikes are planned for next week, one in the north...

Widow's aid

A widow's aid scheme has been set up to help families...

Playboy's perfect woman is dead sexy

Robin Young ponders why the magazine's top 100 includes so few stars who are either alive or brunette

TO BE really sexy in the eyes of Playboy magazine a woman needs two vital attributes. She should be blonde and she should be deceased.



Sexy stars: Marilyn Monroe, top of the list; Grace Kelly, 26th; Raquel Welch, third; and Joan Collins, 38th

(17th), sultry Kim (Kiss me Steppid) Novak (18th), Lana Turner (25th) and Grace Kelly (26th).

Overcoming the disadvantages of being both brunette and still alive, but notably well

from the film 10 goes one better to finish at No 9.

European (60th), with Ursula Andress 19th, Gina Lollobrigida 20th and Catherine Deneuve 45th.

European (60th), with Ursula Andress 19th, Gina Lollobrigida 20th and Catherine Deneuve 45th. Joan Collins is the sexiest Briton in Playboy's lustful eyes (38th) — unless we can still claim Elizabeth Taylor (seventh). Our very own deceased blonde, Diana Dors, is placed 92nd.

THE SEXIEST WOMEN OF THE CENTURY	
1. Marilyn Monroe	2. Jayne Mansfield
3. Raquel Welch	4. Brigitte Bardot
5. Elizabeth Taylor	6. Sophia Loren
7. Elizabeth Taylor	8. Elizabeth Taylor
9. Elizabeth Taylor	10. Elizabeth Taylor
11. Elizabeth Taylor	12. Elizabeth Taylor
13. Elizabeth Taylor	14. Elizabeth Taylor
15. Elizabeth Taylor	16. Elizabeth Taylor
17. Elizabeth Taylor	18. Elizabeth Taylor
19. Ursula Andress	20. Ursula Andress
21. Ursula Andress	22. Ursula Andress
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99. Ursula Andress	100. Ursula Andress

Fears grow for little girl lost for two nights

By Paul Wilkinson

POLICE and volunteers spent a second night searching in sub-zero temperatures for Charlotte Jones, the three-year-old who vanished from her front garden on Monday evening.

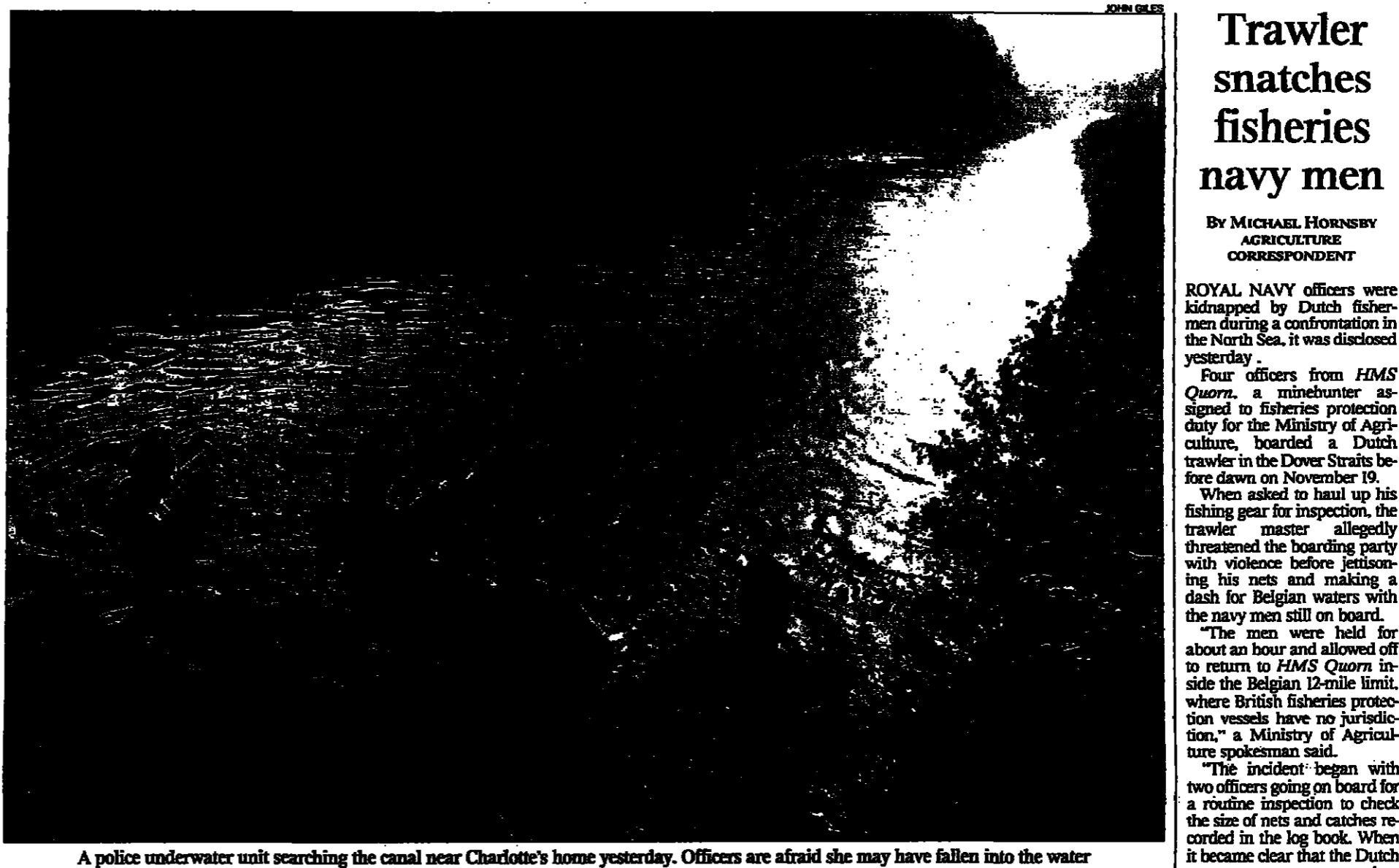
Her mother, Michelle, 24, told police that the girl disappeared after they had gone to the front gate to say goodbye to a visitor, believed to be the child's social worker.

Charlotte Jones: missing since Monday evening

lam, near Warrington, Cheshire. In what they described as a routine step, police took away Miss Jones's black Vauxhall Astra for examination.

Charlotte and her mother moved into the house three months ago and police are concerned that if the girl got lost she may have come to harm either on the railway or Dallam Brook canal, both of which run close to her home.

A police underwater unit searching the canal near Charlotte's home yesterday. Officers are afraid she may have fallen into the water



How researchers got dunking to a tea

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE latest scientific research took the biscuit yesterday, by discovering the glories and hazards of dunking. It revealed what many of the keenest practitioners have long known: that a timely dunk — not too short, not too long — of a biscuit into a cup of tea releases ten times the flavour achieved by eating the biscuit dry.

that the rate at which a biscuit soaks up tea depends on the viscosity and surface tension of the tea, and the pore diameter of the biscuit. This given by Washburn's equation, first worked out 80 years ago by Cyril Washburn, a scientist interested in how quickly blotting paper soaks up ink.

This was because Digestives have a hard-baked outer layer, which lowers their porosity.

and that is to prevent cracks ever starting. A chocolate coating, which has plastic properties, is the ideal material. So a chocolate digestive, laid chocolate-side up on the surface of the tea at a very shallow angle, offers the perfect dunk.

Boy, 15, recruited into kidnap gang

By Helen Johnston

A GANG including a boy of 15 threatened to chop off a businessman's fingers in a 13-hour kidnap ordeal.

Oxford Crown Court was told yesterday, Mr Faulk was dumped in a field and was rescued after calling police on his mobile phone.

PRADA

Trawler snatches fisheries navy men

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

ROYAL NAVY officers were kidnapped by Dutch fishermen during a confrontation in the North Sea, it was disclosed yesterday.

Four officers from HMS Quorn, a minehunter assigned to fisheries protection duty for the Ministry of Agriculture, boarded a Dutch trawler in the Dover Straits before dawn on November 19.

When asked to haul up his fishing gear for inspection, the trawler master allegedly threatened the boarding party with violence before jettisoning his nets and making a dash for Belgian waters with the navy men still on board.

The men were held for about an hour and allowed off to return to HMS Quorn inside the Belgian 12-mile limit, where British fisheries protection vessels have no jurisdiction, a Ministry of Agriculture spokesman said.

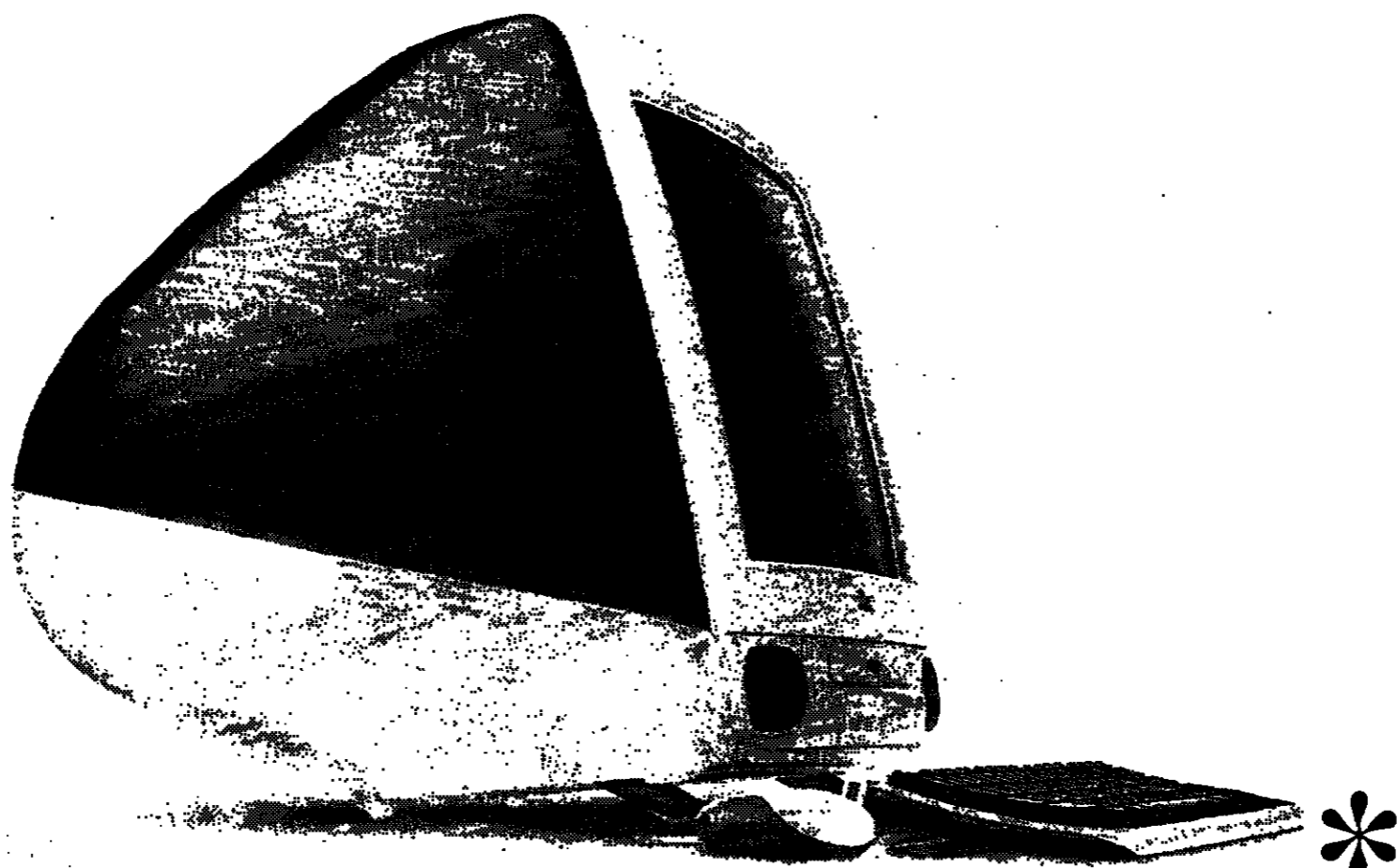
The incident began with two officers going on board for a routine inspection to check the size of nets and catches recorded in the log book. When it became clear that the Dutch master was not cooperating, two more officers went on board.

The *Jozina* eventually put into the Dutch port of Flushing, while HMS Quorn returned to British waters to search in vain for the nets.

The matter is now with the Dutch authorities who are investigating the incident, the spokesman said. "Obviously we will be keeping an eye on the Dutch vessel and would like to speak to the master if he comes into British waters again."

Hundreds of inspections are carried out every year by the fisheries protection squadron of seven purpose-built offshore patrol boats and four minehunters. Several years ago a French trawler off the Channel Islands made off with fisheries inspection officers on board and released them in Normandy.

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Prince's Trust fined £10,000 for wall deaths

By Gillian Harris, Scotland Correspondent

THE Prince's Trust was fined £10,000 yesterday after admitting responsibility for the deaths of two volunteers who were killed when a concrete wall collapsed on top of them.

The trust, set up by the Prince of Wales to provide training for young people, pleaded guilty to failing to ensure the safety of Gary Leaburn, 25, and Derek Taylor, 19, on the Orkney island of North Ronaldsay.

The men, from Dundee, were buried beneath five tonnes of concrete when repairing a sea wall. It took seven hours to recover their bodies. The section of wall was said to be well beyond the competency of volunteers.

"It was a tragic end for two promising lads," said Sheriff Colin Scott McKenzie at Kirkwall Sheriff Court. "At the end of the day, it may be thought that The Prince's Trust is where the buck stops. Their penalty will reflect that."

Two other organisations, Adult Community Education (Dundee) and Angus College in Alroath, were fined £5,000 and £2,500 for their involvement. Both pleaded guilty under the Health and Safety at Work Act. Sheriff McKenzie said: "Two lives have been lost and, to reflect that, sums must be high, but I also take into ac-

count the considerable difficulty and effects in penalising what are essentially charities."

Elizabeth Crowther-Hunt, executive director of the Prince's Trust Volunteers, said after the hearing that everyone was deeply upset by the deaths: "It is clear that our health and safety procedures, which had proved adequate over many years, were insufficient on this occasion. We have made our procedures clearer and put in place new measures to do everything we can to prevent anything like this happening again. The health and safety of the young people on our programme is our highest priority."

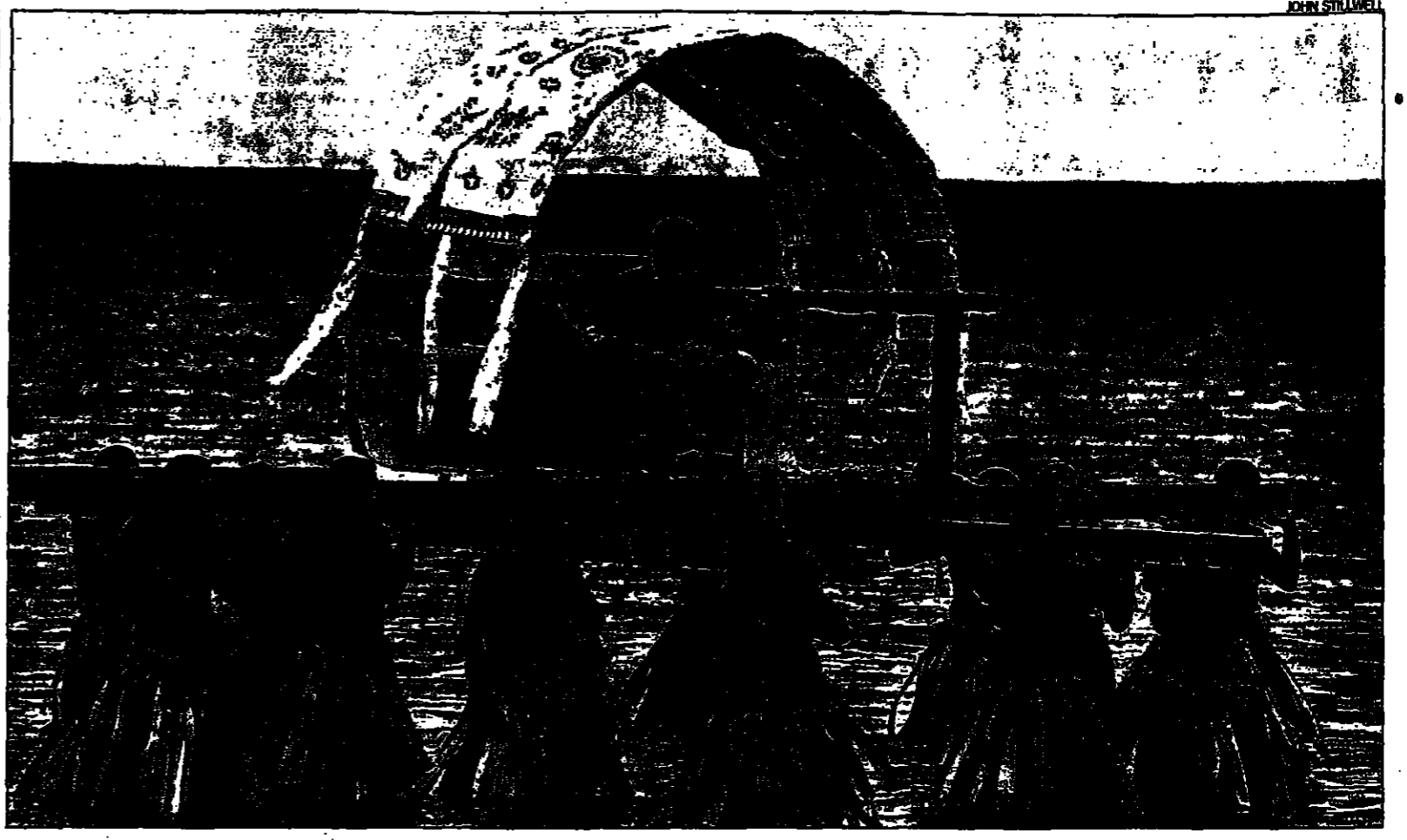
The 12-week course had been advertised in local newspapers as "fun, free and challenging". Volunteers who formed Team 26 travelled to North Ronaldsay to repair a ten-year-old drystone dyke along 12 miles of the island's coast. The Prince of Wales, who visited the island in 1993, had seen the damage done by storms, and for four years volunteers reinforced the wall.

But when they arrived last summer, the volunteers were told by Billy Muir, the chairman of the community council, that they would be working on a section made from concrete. "Had safety been

high on the agenda, it would have been obvious this project was well outside the competency of this group," said Graeme Napier, the Procurator Fiscal. A health and safety examination after the accident concluded that the collapse was "entirely foreseeable".

The three organisations expressed their sympathies to the victims' families. David Stewart, solicitor for The Prince's Trust, said: "In the tragic circumstances which brings us here, the trust accepts they should have done more to ensure provision for risk assessment training." Mr Stewart said the trust had no idea that the work which led to the accident was being carried out by volunteers.

Since 1976, the trust has provided grants, training and study programmes for more than 150,000 youngsters.



The Duke of York receiving a Fijian warriors' welcome yesterday on the island of Beqa, in the South Pacific. The warriors chanted as they waded out of knee-deep water carrying the Duke, who was protected from the sun by an elaborately covered *vava*, or platform. To mark his visit to Sauvan village during his five-day tour of Fiji, the warriors performed a traditional firewalking ceremony over white-hot rocks, a feat for which they had been preparing for a month. As is customary, the Duke was presented with a whale's tooth, the equivalent of the freedom of the city or village.

Asian boy invited BNP to school

By Dominic Kennedy

THE British National Party, which campaigns to repatriate immigrants, was invited by an Asian pupil to address boys at a public school.

The Master of Dulwich College, Graham Able, has disclosed in a letter published in *The Times* today that "a sixth-former of Asian background" asked the BNP's press officer to speak to pupils on Monday. The school has been exploring the "extremes of British politics", with other speakers coming from the Socialist Workers Party and Anti-Nazi League.

Searchlight, the anti-fascist magazine, condemned the school for inviting a BNP speaker to South London, where the black teenager Stephen Lawrence was murdered. The 18-year-old A-level student was stabbed in 1993 at a bus stop in Eltham, the third such murder in the area in two years. "You only have to look

at what happened in Eltham, where they have pumped out this trash for years, and what it has led to. The last place they should be is near children."

Dulwich College has a high proportion of pupils from ethnic minorities. The latest inspection by the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference said: "The mixing of cultures and races and the mutual respect and understanding displayed are particularly impressive features."

Chris Field, the Deputy Master, said he had spoken yesterday to teachers who had taken sixth-formers for lessons immediately after the Monday lunchtime meeting of the Sociology Society. "The boys had realised they were listening to an intelligent man, but who had misguided ideas," he said.

Leading article and Letters, page 23

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Portrait of the artist's house as a lost cause

BY AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A CHILDHOOD home of James Joyce has been flattened to make way for an apartment block, despite an order to preserve its facade. Fans from around the world had campaigned for two years to save the building, which features in *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* and *Finnegans Wake*.

Dublin Corporation is considering legal action against the developer, who says that the building's dilapidated state was a danger to children. Four fires in the past year have caused extensive damage to the walls and roof.

Joyce was 12 when the family lived at Millbourne Avenue, Drumcondra. The writer had been born into wealth in 1882, but his alcoholic father drank the family fortune. The family had 16 addresses in 20 years, moving each time to evade rent arrears.

Ken Monaghan, the writer's nephew, was "deeply saddened" by the demolition. He said: "It would be ridiculous to think that all the houses Joyce lived in could be preserved as museums or memorabilia, but it would have been nice to preserve Millbourne, because it really captures the descent from the good days to the bad days." Dublin Corporation,

the city-centre council, last year gave developers the right to build apartments provided they maintained the exterior of the two-storey house built in 1890. It was razed on Sunday.

In *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, Joyce's most intensely autobiographical work, the Millbourne scene has Stephen Dedalus, the novel's main character, returning from a day at university to find his brothers and sisters sitting in penury around the kitchen table.

Dedalus "pushed open the latched door of the porch and passed through the naked hallway to the kitchen. A group of his brothers and sisters

were sitting around the table. Tea was nearly over and only the last of the second watered tea remained in the bottom of the small glass jars and jampots which did service for tea-cups".

Mrs Joyce gave birth to her 11th child in Millbourne Avenue, although the infant died shortly after birth. Joyce referred to the house in *Finnegans Wake* as "2 Millchbrooke. Wrongly spelled. Traumcondraws".

Patrick O'Rourke, the developer, said that he was unaware that Joyce had lived in the house. He said he thought the most famous owner had been an archbishop.

Millbourne is the second of Joyce's former homes to be demolished. Vivien Igoe, author of *James Joyce's Dublin Houses*, fears that developers will now raze 15 Usher's Island, another of the houses and the setting for the powerful short story *The Dead*. The house is run-down and its windows are blocked up by corrugated iron.

"It is such a pity to see this happening when our economy is booming," she said. "We only need to preserve the buildings and put up a plaque to remind people about Joyce. But we don't seem to be able to manage even that."



Joyce: his family had 16 homes in 20 years



Before: the childhood home where the 12-year-old Joyce experienced poverty that he never forgot



Now: the building has been flattened despite a two-year campaign. The developer says it was dangerous

Soldiers on exercise poisoned by fumes

BY SIMON DE BRUNELLES

SOLDIERS had to be treated in hospital yesterday after being overcome by exhaust fumes during an exercise.

The 77 men from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers were working in a disused hanger at Hullavington RAF base in Wiltshire when they were taken ill with carbon monoxide poisoning. After tests, 58 were detained and the rest discharged.

The soldiers were taking part in a four-week exercise designed to test their abilities to service and repair military helicopters in adverse conditions. Health and safety experts were last night examining a generator thought to have been the source of the fumes. The alarm was raised at 10pm on Monday night when one of the soldiers had difficulty waking up from an off-duty break. Several others also complained of feeling ill.

An army spokesman said: "When they deploy on operations such as this, they have to work in difficult conditions without electricity and so on, such as they might find in places like Bosnia.

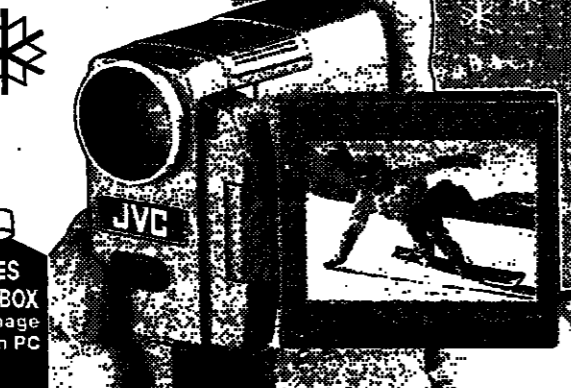
"They use small mobile generators to power their tools and equipment. These generators have a flexible exhaust tube, which is fed through a gap in a door or window. "This is supposed to take all the exhaust fumes out. How it came to be that exhaust fumes were in the building is what we are now investigating."

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Relief road protesters dig in for long fight

BY ADAM FRESCO

AS LIGHT broke over their camp yesterday, protesters against the building of the Birmingham northern relief road woke to the voice of the Under-Sheriff of Staffordshire ringing in their ears.

With his feet planted firmly in the muddy field and a megaphone in his hand, John James, supported by a group of men he had sworn in as sheriffs, was there to warn the protesters that their time was up. His job was to get them out and get the road built.

He told them that they were now officially trespassing and faced arrest: anyone who refused to leave the site off the A38 at Weeford, Staffordshire, would be made to do so. The demonstrators, who had barricaded themselves inside a labyrinth of tunnels on the proposed route, bolted their hatches and went to their positions.

As they did so, Mr James, a 56-year-old solicitor, set up camp in the next field, bringing in the heavy equipment he would need to get the protesters out and the building of Britain's first private toll motorway off the ground.

Muppet Dave, a veteran of several road protests, said the bailiffs faced obstacles never previously employed by road protesters. They are believed to have dug a network of tunnels that lead to a separate bunker, 20ft deep and 15ft square, constructed with reinforced concrete threaded with steel and are said to have food and water to last a month.

Mr James said the physical eviction would not begin until secure compounds had been built. "I am pleased to be able to say that the commencement of the eviction process has begun satisfactorily."

Stabbed social worker turned down new post

BY ADRIAN LEE AND CLAUDIA JOSEPH

A SOCIAL worker fatally stabbed at a hostel for psychiatric patients had declined promotion to management because she wanted to be on the front line of the care system.

Jenny Morrison, 51, a former typist who had risen to become one of Wandsworth council's most experienced social workers, specialised in working with the mentally ill. Ms Morrison, a single parent and a grandmother, was stabbed eight times in the stomach during a routine visit to a council hostel in Balham, southwest London, on Monday.

Although Ms Morrison had not received any self-defence training, colleagues said she was capable of looking after herself.

"She had a very good sense of judgment," Ms Dobson said. "She would not have placed herself in danger."

Ms Morrison lived alone, in Wimbledon, but had a long-term partner who teaches at an American airforce base. Her daughter, Tanya, 29, who lives in Essex, said: "She died doing the job she loved."

The dead woman's sister, Sandra Foster, 53, said: "She came out of school with no qualifications and worked hard - morning, noon and night. She fought for those people."

The hostel is a halfway house for people with mental health problems, but not severe psychiatric disorders. Yesterday it was closed.

Ms Morrison's death reopened the debate over care in the community. Michael Howlett, director of the Zito Trust, said: "The severity of the attack raises questions about why such patients are put in these hostels without stronger supervision."

Hairy mice point way ahead to baldness cure

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A MOLECULE that makes skin cells sprout hair could be the long-awaited cure for baldness.

It has already cured a superhairy breed of mice. One day it may restore hair to millions of men for whom every day is a no-hair day.

Normally, hair follicles are produced only in the womb. Once they die, they cannot be replaced. Now scientists at the University of Chicago report in *Cell* that they have identified a molecule, beta-catenin, that instructs adult cells to revert to an embryonic-like state and become hair follicles.

"This is exciting because current treatments for baldness work only if there are

living follicles left, or if the patient undergoes hair transplant surgery," says Elaine Fuchs, who led the experiments. "Our research shows that new follicles can be created from adult skin cells if certain molecular players are induced to act."

The experiments involved introducing a gene into mice that made them produce a constant supply of beta-catenin in their skin. This process caused some skin cells to produce a second molecule, called LEF-1, which joined with the beta-catenin to turn skin cells into follicles.

The mice were indeed exceptionally hairy, but there was a snag. The proliferation of follicles led to benign

tumours forming. "This is a case of too much of a good thing leading to a bad thing," says Professor Fuchs.

More work needs to be done to achieve hair growth without potentially dangerous side effects, such as cancer. One way might be to express beta-catenin in skin cells only up to a certain point and turn it off once enough follicles have formed.

With luck, this would ensure an adequate supply of new hair while preventing tumour formation. The findings could also have a downside, she says. It could be used to halt unwanted hair growth, or to engineer sheep with denser fleeces.

Disabled boy wins £3m claim

Jet lost bus a h

Furrier rescue

Hedgehog abuse

Hor on the trail

Reliant stung

Shot man 'b into own ho

مكتبة من الأصل

45mph cyclist caught on the tail of lorry

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A CYCLIST caught doing 45mph just a foot from the rear of a lorry was fined yesterday for riding without due care and attention.

Peter Archer, 36, a racing enthusiast who pedals 18 miles a day to and from work, admitted the charge, but said that he was doing only 37mph. "I may be fit, but I'm not the bionic man," he said after the case.

In October 1997 police stopped a housewife on her bicycle, riding at 43mph through a radar trap. Ros Jones, 43, of Carmarthenshire, had been advised to take up gentle cycling by her swimming instructor.

Archer said that a computer on his bicycle told him that 37mph was his maximum speed when the offence occurred on July 7. He said that he was at least 6ft behind the lorry on the A141 in March, Cambridgeshire. He was fined £35.

Police estimated, by judging his speed against their speedometer, that he was doing 45mph on his mountain bike

in the slipstream of a lorry on the rural road, which had a 60mph limit.

Fenland magistrates were told that Archer ignored police signals to pull over. He said he thought that the officers were signalling to the lorry driver.

The father of two, from March, condemned the decision to prosecute him as petty. "I couldn't reach 45mph unless I was very, very fit and had a much better bike. If the police thought I was riding

badly, surely a warning would have been enough. At least five times a week I see people doing silly things in cars.

"Taking me to court is extremely petty. I am sure there are real criminals who are laughing at this because it took the spotlight off them."

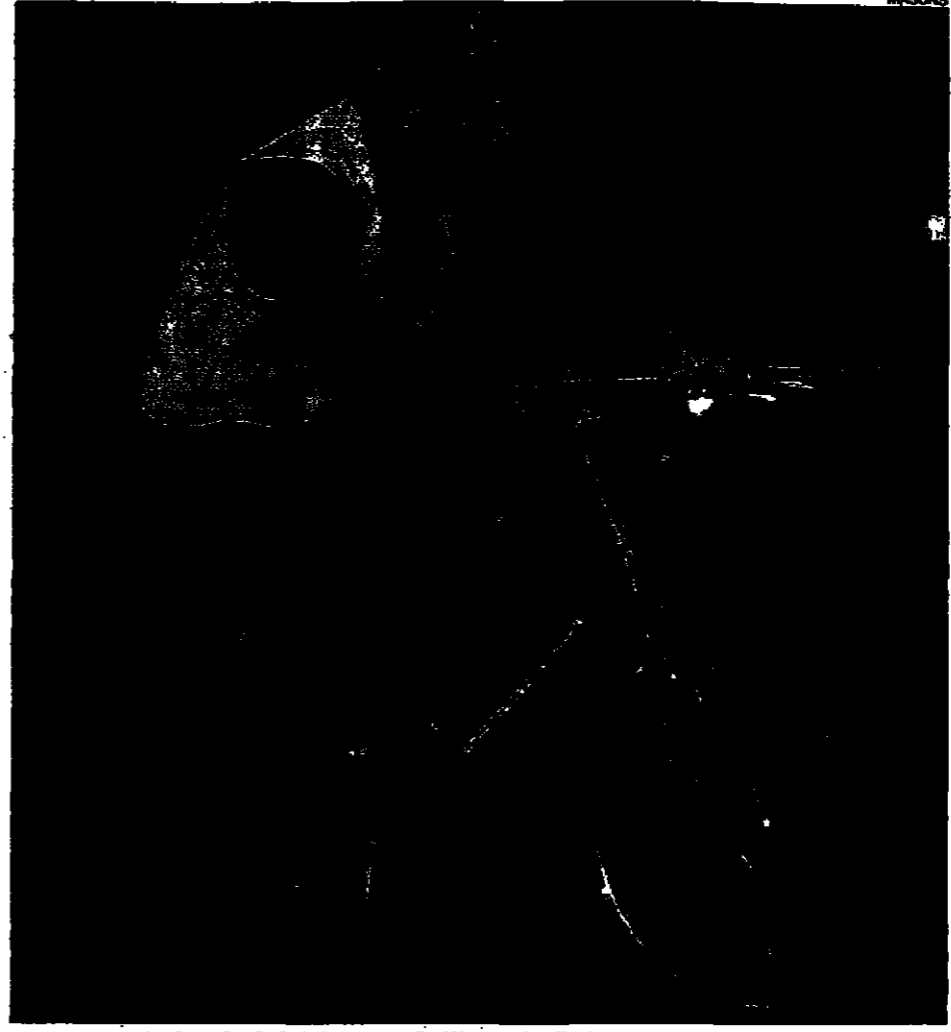
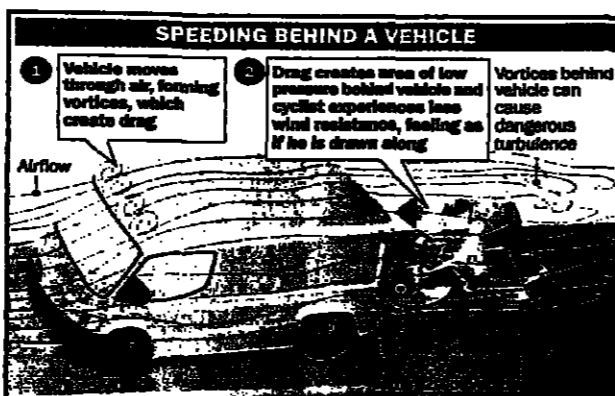
PC Vic Smith, Cambridgeshire police's Casualty Reduction Officer, declined to comment on the case but said that riding without due care and attention was a charge occasion-

ally levelled at cyclists. In June 1997 the Government announced a clampdown on bad cycling, saying that cyclists who rode without due care and attention would face fines of up to £1,000.

Cyclists call it "drafting" — the trick of slotting in behind another cyclist in a race and getting a pull. It works even better with a truck, if you are foolhardy enough to try it (Nigel Hawkes writes).

"A rider is very unsteady," said John Bradshaw, a mathematician and cycle enthusiast from Lancaster University. "It's all those bits sticking out that do it." This means that the top speed that can be reached by an ordinary cyclist, even downhill, is 45mph, but far higher speeds are possible behind a large vehicle.

The record is 166.9mph, set at Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah in 1995 by Fred Rompelberg, of Holland. He rode behind a large windshield, tucking in to the region of low pressure immediately behind so that he was dragged along.



Peter Archer denied doing 45mph: "I may be fit, but I'm not the bionic man"

Prisoner on hunger strike for 50 days

By PAUL WILKINSON

A PRISONER entered his 50th day of a hunger strike yesterday in protest at government policy on vivisection.

Barry Horne, an animal rights extremist jailed for a bombing campaign, received final rites in a pagan ceremony in the prison hospital on Sunday. Doctors at Full Sutton are preparing to transfer him to intensive care in hospital in York if his condition becomes worse. Friends say he now cannot leave his bed and is close to unconsciousness.

Horne, 46, has stipulated that he should not be put on life-support, should he become unaware of what is going on.

The Animals Betrayed Coalition said that he had offered to end his strike if a date was set for a royal commission on animal experiments, and that Labour had promised this before the election.

The Prison Service said that it was deeply concerned at his condition. A spokesman said that the consultant monitoring his condition reported that he was currently stable.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Disabled boy wins £3m claim

A 12-year-old boy severely brain damaged at birth was awarded £3.25 million damages at the High Court in London yesterday.

David Reynolds needs full-time care because of cerebral palsy. He was born at Poole General Hospital, Dorset, in May 1986 in a forceps delivery. He did not breathe for 18 minutes. East Dorset Health Authority also agreed to pay legal costs and £27,500 compensation to Susan Reynolds, 44, for internal injuries suffered during the delivery.

Funfair rescue

Funfair revellers on a "white-kimble" ride were stuck in mid-air — some upside down — for 45 minutes before rescue by ladder in a suspected hydraulic failure at Aberystwyth. Seven were treated for shock and bruised muscles.

Hedgehog abuse

A man was fined £75 for playing football with a hedgehog. Neil Woodyatt, 20, of Waunfwdy, South Wales, was charged with causing unnecessary suffering to a wild mammal after police saw him kicking it. The hedgehog was unhurt.

Hot on the trail

Detectives found 212 stolen antique fireplaces worth about £500,000 in two raids in Luton and Ampthill, Bedfordshire. One fireplace made from Italian marble is alone worth £10,000. Possible owners were urged to contact Luton police.

Reliant stung

Police laid spiked metal "stinger" strips around an industrial state in Fleetwood, Lancashire, to puncture the tyres of a runaway Reliant Robin. Its driver had eluded bigger police cars by driving through a small hole in a fence.

Jet's crew lose dog, but gain a hamster

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

A FLIGHT from London to Melbourne proved to be fraught with difficulty for a pet owner who lost her dog, and a for hamster that lost its owner. Airline staff admitted defeat yesterday in their efforts to reunite them all.

The first to go absent without leave was a bull mastiff, which broke free from its cage to go walkabout in the cargo hold of the Boeing 747. The dog is thought to have left the British Airways plane on its own without being noticed during a stopover at Bangkok.

The dog's Australian owner disembarked in Sydney only to be told that her pet was missing. Staff searched the cargo hold and the huge airport to no avail.

"We have no idea how he got away, but he is definitely nowhere to be found," said a spokeswoman. "We think he must have nipped off on transfer at Bangkok."

"We are very sorry for this. We carry more than 1,000 dogs a year without any problem, but we simply can't find this one."

The owner, who lives in Sydney, has been offered two free tickets to Bangkok as compensation for her loss last Saturday.

The hamster was an unofficial traveller and was spotted scampering down the aisle on the Bangkok to Sydney leg. It is believed to have fled from hand baggage in the passenger cabin.

Once cornered, it was looked after by airline staff but no owner has admitted responsibility for breaking international aviation law by taking the pet on board without reporting to the authorities.

"We are still waiting for someone to come forward, but we will have to let animal welfare officers look after it if no one accepts responsibility," said the spokeswoman.

Shot man 'broke into own home'

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A POLICE marksman shot dead a man who had locked himself out of his home after his girlfriend reported an armed burglary in progress, an inquest was told yesterday.

Michael Fitzgerald, 32, was mistaken for a burglar after his girlfriend, Melanie Jay, reported seeing legs disappear through the kitchen window and did not recognise him. It later emerged that Mr Fitzgerald, an unemployed railway worker, had left his house keys in a jacket in a pub.

Police evacuated people from their homes after being told that the man had also been seen with a gun. Marksmen surrounding Mr Fitzgerald's home in Bedford in February saw him lean out of a window, brandishing a gun.

The inquest was told that officers had spent 90 minutes trying to talk to Mr Fitzgerald on the telephone. But, when he leant from the window and pointed the gun, one policeman had fired. Mr Fitzgerald's weapon, which turned

out to be a replica Colt 45 pistol, led to the first fatal shooting involving Bedfordshire Police since its officers were armed 13 years ago. A post-mortem examination showed that he died from a single shot.

The dead man's sister, Mary, said: "Somebody could have contacted a member of the family. Nobody knew what had happened. The operation went too fast."

The jury at the Bedford inquest was told that the officer who had fired the shot had been taken off firearms duty, but had not been suspended.

Detective Superintendent Trevor Davies, of Thames Valley Police, who was appointed by the Police Complaints Authority, said that he had found no basis for criminal liability in the actions of any individual officer. The case was also referred to the Crown Prosecution Service, which decided that there was no justification for criminal proceedings.

The inquest, which is expected to last four days, continues.



Surprisingly ordinary prices



HIV cases rise as the young spurn condoms

Pop star joins safe sex crusade, writes Helen Rumbelow

CONDOMS should be as available as Coca-Cola to defeat the continuing rise of HIV among young people who ignore safe sex rules, the International Development Secretary, Clare Short, said yesterday as it was revealed that 10,000 Britons under 25 are carrying the virus.

"If Coca-Cola can manage to be available everywhere, then so can condoms," Ms Short said on the release of a UN report which showed that there were nearly six million new cases worldwide last year.

Teenagers and those in their early twenties are the most at risk. In Britain, the under-25s make up half of the total number of infections, which have been steadily increasing to more than 2,500 new cases a year.

The promise of a cure, or at least the effectiveness of new drug treatments, may be making young people less afraid of the disease, said the report on the Aids epidemic. Powerful and expensive combination therapies reduced deaths from Aids by more than a quarter in Britain last year.

The projected figures for

this year are even lower, 250 deaths, falling from 381 in 1997, 500 in 1996 and 1,276 in 1992. ACET, a leading British Aids charity, said. In America deaths have dropped by two thirds since the arrival of the new drugs in the past two years.

However, infection rates in Britain are nearly double that of 1989, when awareness of the disease was at its peak. That year 1,500 people caught the virus.

Ms Short, launching the report in London in advance of World Aids Day on Tuesday, said that it was more important than ever that the danger of Aids was made clear.

"There's a horrible sense of complacency in the West, that it's all peaked and under control. It's not, it's a disaster."

The pattern in Britain is repeated across the globe, with three million young people catching the disease this year — more than five every minute.

The first move to making condoms more available is the appointment of William Roddy, the executive director of MTV, the pop music chan-

nel, as this year's ambassador to the UNAids programme. His first venture on their behalf will be a half-hour documentary on Aids that will be presented on World Aids Day by George Michael.

The show is the first time a programme other than awards ceremonies have been shown on MTV's 17 local channels across the world.

It opens with Michael against swirls of pink latex and dance music, saying: "I know you don't get to see me on camera very often, but now it's time to listen to what I have to say." His words will be translated into seven languages, with the message that "condoms are cool, using them is cool, hip and trendy," said Mr Roddy.

Peter Piot, executive director of UNAids, said that, in the few countries of the world that had managed to reverse rates of Aids infections, such as Uganda, Thailand and Tanzania, condom use was crucial.

The female condom had been a surprising success, he said, as women in Africa were keen to be put in charge of their own protection.



"Creative centre" will be based in the brick undercroft

Toymaker brings fun back to Roundhouse

By Marcus Binney

ONE of Britain's most successful toymakers is to transform the Roundhouse in Camden into a creative centre for young people.

Torquill Norman, a former chairman of Bluebird Toys, bought the former railway engine shed in North London for £3 million in 1996. He plans to revive the interior, which staged such controversial productions as *Oh! Calcutta!* in the 1960s, as a performance space, with up to 1,200 theatre seats and standing room for 2,700 at pop concerts.

"We can have the whole range of music and theatre that made the Roundhouse famous under Arnold Wesker, as well as circus and even dodgem cars," he said.

Below the building he has discovered a huge brick vaulted undercroft that will become the new creative centre. He is convinced that it will deliver the Government's goals of cultural diversity, wider access and less social exclusion in the arts. He said: "A kid without qualifications or training can come here and cut a disc, make a tape or a video or become involved with the theatre production."

Recently Mr Norman's trust held a music workshop with 100 children, who worked for five days to put a concert on stage with the rock group Stomp. Mr Norman has enlisted five main

associates to help to run the new centre: YCTV, which uses 13 to 18-year-olds to make television programmes; Raw Material, a video and film agency offering training to the young; the London College of Fashion; and the Rockshop, which combines children and professional musicians in bands.

The Roundhouse was built in 1846 to the design of Robert Stephenson, the railway engineer. But after 12 years it was taken over by Gilbey's Gin as a bonded warehouse. It was adopted as an arts centre by Wesker in 1964 and also served as a launchpad for rock acts such as Pink Floyd, the Rolling Stones, the

Doors and Jimi Hendrix. It closed in 1983.

Plans by the architect John McAslan include a new glass staircase tower and an all-glass restaurant on the north side. With the engineer Tony Hunt, who worked on the Eaststar terminus at Waterloo, Mr McAslan has designed a "coolie hat" roof laid over the existing structure.

If Mr Norman's applications for £12.5 million grant from the Arts Council and £4.5 million grant from Heritage Lottery Fund are successful, he hopes to start work late in 2000 and reopen in 2002. He has already committed £6.2 million from his own trust.



Torquill Norman lifts the "coolie hat" lid on the plans

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				● LONDON CITY
				● STAPLES CORNER

Pupils may be shown real crash footage

By Gillian Harris Scotland Correspondent

A POLICE force will decide today whether teenagers should be shown graphic video footage of road accidents in an attempt to shock them into driving safely.

Officers attending a meeting of Northern Constabulary's police board in Inverness will see mangled bodies being cut from wreckage and placed in body bags, before giving approval for the footage to be shown to sixth-year pupils throughout the Highlands.

The force, which has the worst road accident record in Scotland, is the first in Britain to consider showing 17 and 18-year-olds the aftermath of an accident. The video being considered includes a clip in which a camera pans over the crumpled remains of a family car. From the contorted limbs and the blood-filled mouth, it is clear that the driver is dead.

Relatives of the victims, who gave their permission for the footage to be shown, include Reg and Cathy Turner from Alness, in Easter Ross, whose sons, Greg, 18, and Russell, 24, died in separate car crashes within three years on the same stretch of road.

A police spokeswoman said: "Children nowadays are very sophisticated. Other forces use actors but you cannot fool teenagers. If people are prepared to pay money to see *Saving Private Ryan*, which includes images of soldiers being blown apart, they can cope with seeing footage of dead people."

Acid fall worker saved by colleagues

By a Correspondent

A WORKER who fell into a pool of sulphuric acid solution was saved from serious injury by colleagues who showered him with chemicals.

Kelvin Beynon, 29, tumbled into a 3ft-deep pool of the corrosive liquid while working at an anodising plant yesterday.

He swallowed some of the corrosive fluid and inhaled fumes, but serious burns were avoided by his quick-thinking workmates, who went to his aid after he scrambled from the vat. Mike Walden, managing director of Anocool, in Milton Keynes, said: "Thankfully, the workers on duty followed our safety guidelines."

Firefighters doused Mr Beynon with water before ambulance crews tended his burnt skin. Stan Jones, an assistant divisional fire officer, said: "We hosed the man down. It was important to make sure that he was decontaminated."

An ambulance spokesman said: "When we arrived he was having breathing problems and had burns to his eyes and nose."

Mr Beynon, an anodising operator at Anocool, which uses the 20 per cent acid solution to treat aluminium used in strip lighting, was taken to hospital. A spokesman at Milton Keynes General Hospital said: "He was treated but has been discharged."

Mr Walden said: "We are investigating what Kelvin was doing when he fell into the acid." He did not know from what height Mr Beynon had fallen.

Bag, £175.00. Scarf, £99.50.

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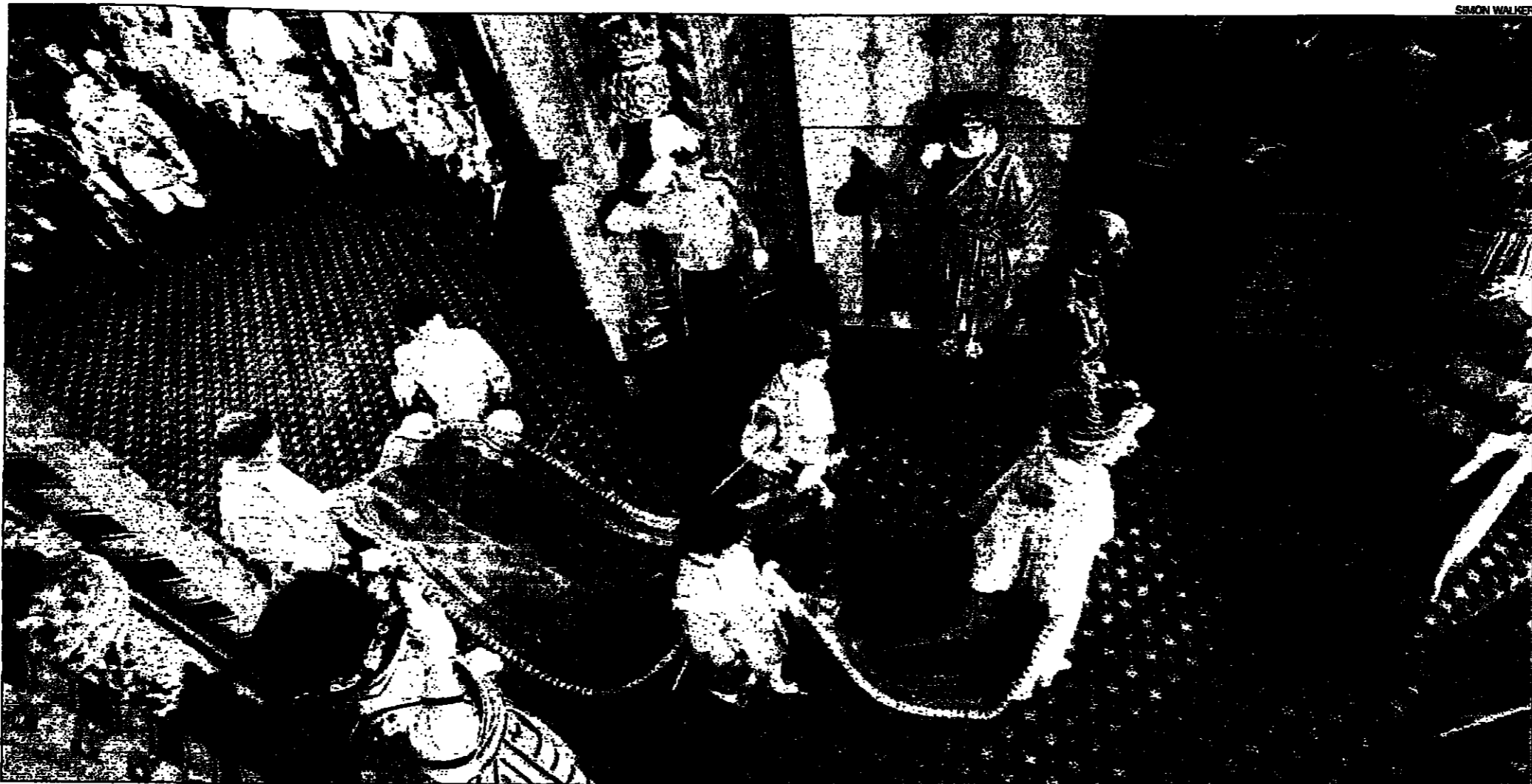
THE TIMES

Truly democratic have

PETER RIDDELL, PA PROPOSALS, PAGE 11

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THE QUEEN'S SPEECH



The Queen with the Duke of Edinburgh at the State Opening of Parliament yesterday. Labour MPs shouted "Hear, hear" as she announced a Bill abolishing the rights of hereditary peers

A SUMMARY OF THE BILLS

- Bill to scrap NHS internal market...
- Bill to modernise Youth Courts and give greater protection to vulnerable witnesses.
- Bill to modernise legal aid.
- Bill to overhaul social security system, including reform of disability benefits, split of pensions on divorce, introduction of second-tier stakeholder pensions.
- Bill to bring in the Working Families Tax Credit and Disabled Persons Tax Credit.
- Legislation to establish Disability Rights Commission.
- Measures to establish "fairness at work".
- Bill to merge Contributions Agency and Inland Revenue.
- Legislation to modernise local government in England and Wales.
- Legislation to establish directly-elected mayor for London and separate elected assembly.
- Establishment of Regional Development Agencies.
- Bill to remove right of hereditary peers to sit and vote in House of Lords.
- Legislation to provide fair basis for water charges.
- Legislation to improve regulation of financial services by Financial Services Authority.
- Bill to reduce age of consent for homosexuals to 16 in England, Wales and Scotland and 17 in Northern Ireland.
- Bill to modernise immigration and asylum laws.
- Bill to convert Commonwealth Development Corporation into public-private partnership.
- Reintroduction of Bill to bring in proportional representation for European parliamentary elections.
- Measure for Government to recoup from insurance companies cost to NHS of treating traffic accident victims.
- Draft proposals on a Freedom of Information Act and reform of party funding.

Truly, madly, democratic Lords have no peers

It was an historic day in the House of Lords. It only needed Mick Jagger to gyrate down the chamber singing "This could be the last time". Which would not have seemed odd, since this State Opening was remarkable for its atmosphere of Mick-and-Jerry-style glamour, as well as its unaccustomed noise.

The din was the rumble of "Hear, hear" that erupted from Labour MPs when the Queen came to the bit about ending hereditary peerages. The royal voice was fearless as it uttered these radical sentiments, and the "Hear, hear" was clearly audible. Interrupting Her Majesty! Nobody had ever heard of such a thing. Stunned, Bateman cartoon faces turned to glare towards the miscreants: the Labour MPs who had just been led in by Black Rod to assume their traditional huddle at the end of the chamber. "New Labour, No Manners", harrumphed Baroness Strange as she swept monumentally out of the central lobby afterwards.

Lord Archer of Weston-Super-Mare emerged with several new wrinkles, etched by rage. "I am absolutely disgusted," he huffed. "Next to me sat my friend Robert Ferrers [the 13th Earl] who told me he had never in 44 years in the House heard anything so disgraceful as interrupting the Queen's Speech." But Lord Archer would be all in favour of wresting the earldom from his friend's heirs, however. Michael Howard had begged Michael Howard to get in quick and reform the Lords before Labour did? Mr Howard said there was neither time nor inclination. But Lord Archer's reform would have been painless: ex-



Valerie Grove is amused by an atmosphere of pop-star glamour nearly 30 years after she attended her last State Opening

isting hereditary peers would continue to sit until they dropped dead. "We'd be rid of most of them in about ten years," he beamed. "Simple!"

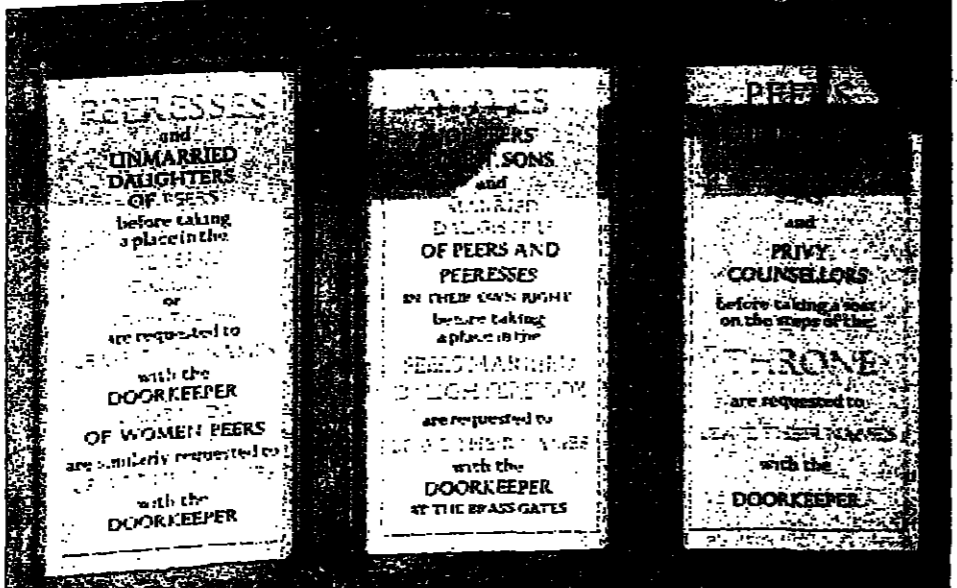
It is nearly 30 years since I last attended this amusing occasion, a galling reminder of how many of my contemporaries and even juniors are now ennobled, sometimes on mystifying pretexts. But for the most part it is *déjà vu* all round: the nursery rhyme thrones, the flunkeys and flummery, Rouge Dragon Pursuivant, Alice in Wonderland stuff. The sheer absurdity of dressing up in tiaras and long evening gowns on a dark, wet November day. The long-suffering hubbub as the ermined ones wait for the procession of playing-card figures. The way the Duke of Edinburgh arranges his princely limbs in the perfect consort's pose. The delicious mis-matchings of placements, everyone so huggemugger they sit squeezed with people they'd never dream of having to dinner, but find they quite like chatting to after all.

Josephine Hart, the novelist, whose husband is Lord Saatchi, in plunging black velvet and an Edwardian diamond-and-pearl collar, made best friends with Marianna, wife of Lord Falconer of Thornton, Mr Blair's Cabinet fixer. Lord Bragg found himself bunched up with the elegant Gita Feldman, wife of Baron Feldman, Tory party stalwart.

The presence of a film star had everyone craning at Jamie Lee Curtis, demure and slender in understated dignity with her short, severe haircut and simple gold laurel wreath, among the ambassadors' wives and tiara'd peeresses. But nobody could identify her husband, Christopher, the 5th Baron Haden-Guest, though the rumour spread that he had appeared as a boy in *The Go Between*. But for sheer glamour Pauline Prescott, up in the gallery with Cherie, outshone the jewelled ladies below in a stunning, scarlet Ascot hat the size of a bucket.

There were other harrumphing matters: poor Lord Irvine of Lairg's failure to back away from the Queen (he turned his back on her instead). But at least he was still in the stockings he finds so tiresome, while Margaret Beckett opted daringly for the trouser suit, another break with tradition.

This may indeed have been the very last State Opening of its kind. Which might partly account for the Gioconda smile worn by Baroness Jay of Paddington. But if it is, I think we shall miss the hilarious incongruity of the Lords as we know it — scions of ancient families cheek by jowl with jumped-up street traders (did you ever see anyone more like a barrow boy than Lord Harlech?), which is, after all, more truly and madly democratic than a meritocracy.



Protocol and tradition: plaques informing peers and their relatives on how they should deport themselves when attending the Upper Chamber

PETER RIDDELL, PAGE 10; LORDS REFORM PROPOSALS, PAGE 11; TEXT OF SPEECH PAGE 12

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Benefits must be 'deserved'

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
SOCIAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

WELFARE REFORM

A PROFOUND cultural shift in people's attitudes towards welfare is the aim of the Welfare Reform Bill. It will emphasise self-help and forcing people to prove that they "deserve" their state benefits.

The key will be the creation of a "single gateway" to the benefits system, which will require all claimants of working age to attend a mandatory interview with a personal adviser as a condition of receiving welfare. Only those obviously too disabled or ill to work will be exempt. In the same vein, the "all work test", which currently determines entitlement to disability benefits, will be replaced with an "employability test". The idea is to shift the focus from finding out what work people cannot do to what they can do.

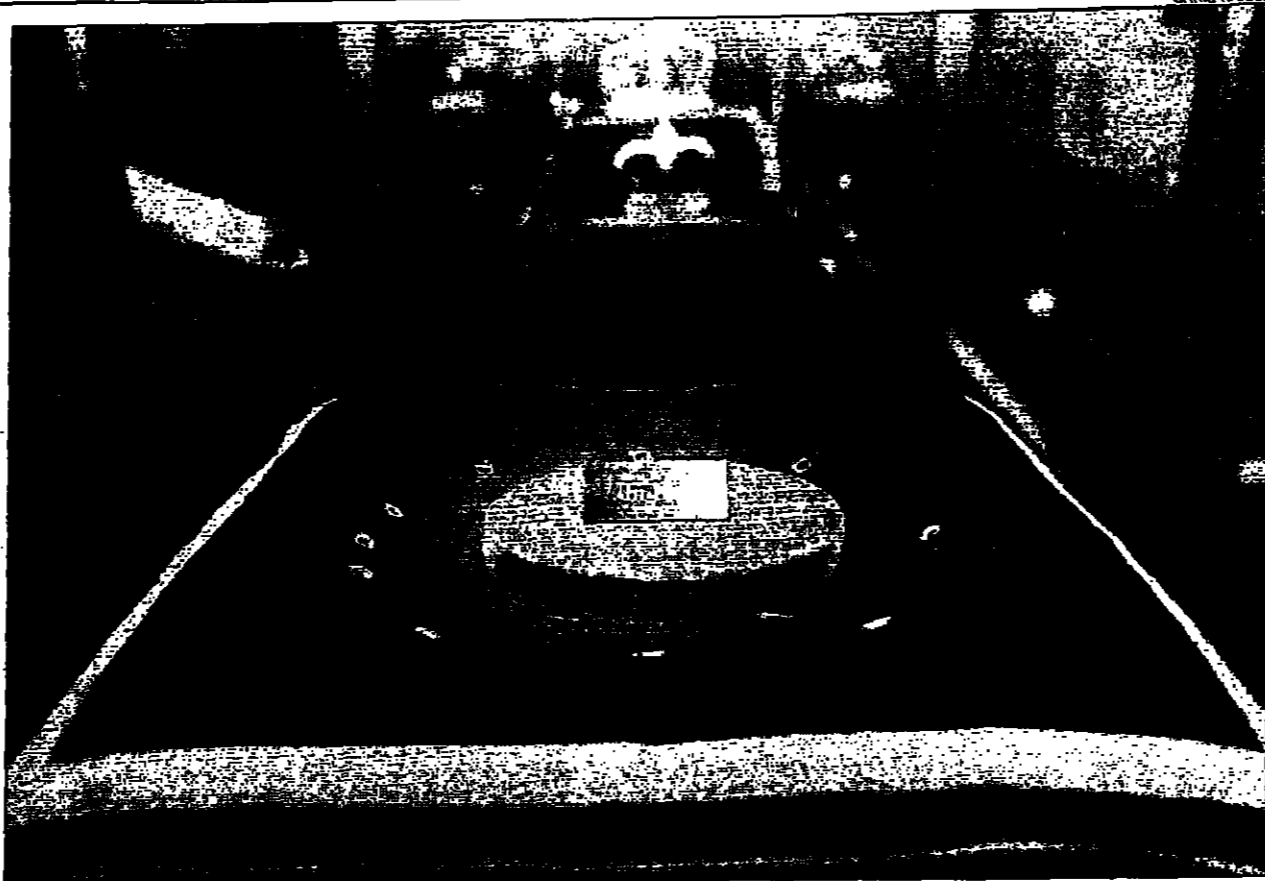
The Bill will also contain provisions for a Disability Rights Commission, which will have similar powers to the Commission for Racial Equality and the Equal Opportunities Commission to back legal action supporting the rights of people with disabilities.

There will be more help for those disabled at birth or at a very early age, severely disabled children and those who

need round-the-clock care. The criteria for claiming Incapacity Benefit (IB), for those too sick to work, will be tightened. Under what may turn out to be the Bill's most contentious measure, people who have not paid National Insurance contributions in the past two years will no longer be eligible for IB unless they have been caring for a dependent relative and receiving invalid care allowance.

While welcoming the creation of a Disability Rights Commission, disability campaigners expressed deep reservations about the new IB rules. Lord Ashley of Stoke, co-chairman of the Parliamentary All-Party Disability Group, accused the Government of breaking its moral obligation to National Insurance contributors. "This will mean that someone who has paid National Insurance for 20 years but unemployed for more than a year will be ineligible for IB if they become disabled."

The Bill confirmed for the first time that self-employed people and workers with no company pension will be encouraged to take out "stakeholder" retirement plans to top up their state pensions. There will also be new provisions on pension-sharing on divorce.



Situation vacant: the case of the Imperial State Crown, which the Queen wore yesterday, at the Tower of London

NHS market will be abolished

BY MARK HENDERSON

HEALTH

THE NHS internal market and GP fundholding are to be abolished in the modernisation of the health service.

A Health Bill will sweep away the previous Government's most controversial changes and replace GP fundholders with primary care groups, which can commission services. The Bill also provides for the setting up of primary care trusts, made up of GPs and community nurses, who can provide services. The

Government aims to end the competition inspired by the internal market, which it says pitted hospitals, doctors and nurses against one another in the fight for funds. GP fundholding, which ministers say has created a two-tier system under which fundholders can secure swifter, better treatment for patients, will also go.

There will be an independent body, the Commission for Health Improvement, already

nicknamed "Chimp", with strong powers to audit hospitals and send "hit squads" to run those it deems to be failing. It will "name and shame" doctors who fall below set standards, and start disciplinary procedures where necessary.

Professional self-regulation will be tightened, with all parts of the NHS given a statutory duty to provide high-quality care. Ministers hope the measures will restore public confidence in doctors, hit by a number of recent cases. A separate Road Traffic (NHS Charges) Bill will make it easier for hospitals to reclaim the cost of treating accident victims from insurers. Private hospitals reclaim such costs as a matter of course, but the NHS has been fettered by bureaucracy.

A new unit will seek up to £10,000 per patient from insurers, saving a potential £500 million a year for the NHS. Average premiums are likely to rise by about £10 as a result.

Ann Widdecombe, Shadow Health Secretary, said the new primary care groups would "turn doctors into pen-pushers" with no benefit for patients. "GPs will lose the autonomy to improve patient care... Rationing and regulation are being introduced through Labour's new quangos and the whole system is being bureaucratized from top to bottom."

Stephen Thornton, chief executive of the NHS Confederation, which represents trusts and health authorities, said: "It is a huge agenda which is supported by NHS organisations but will require a cultural revolution... It will take a number of years to get right." Rabbi Julia Neuberger, a lay member of the General Medical Council, feared the effect of the changes on doctors: "This name and shame culture will demoralise doctors without improving things for patients."

Car charges to raise billions for London

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

TRANSPORT

NEW laws allowing motoring charges to be imposed in London will enable the capital's elected mayor to raise up to £1 billion a year.

Legislation to create the new mayoral post and the Greater London Authority will also include powers to charge companies for staff parking spaces. Details of the charges will be left to the new bodies to decide, and the authority will be allowed to keep most of the proceeds to improve transport in the city.

The legislation for London is expected to be followed by legislation for further motoring charges across the country. Ministers have asked local authorities to volunteer for trial projects to test the practicality of charging motorists.

Research by the Chartered Institute of Transport suggested that £600million could be raised annually through road charges across greater London. A further £400 million a

year could be raised by imposing charges of up to £1,000 on each workplace parking space. Resulting improvements in traffic flow could save businesses up to £400 million annually.

A standard motoring charge of £400 a year for those living in Central London has been proposed to ministers, giving car owners a "travel card" that could be used for cars or public transport in a tightly defined area. Transport advisers are split over whether to recommend a simple system of paper permits displayed in car windcreens, or a more sophisticated and expensive electronic tagging scheme under which roadside beacons would "charge" in-car smartcards.

The latter system, which could cost more than £200 million to set up, would operate either through a cordon system, in which drivers are charged as they pass a particular point, or on a continuous charging scheme based on miles driven.

Mayor to control eight areas of life

BY ROLAND WATSON
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LONDON

THE first directly elected mayor of London will preside over a 25-member assembly and hold sway over eight broad areas of life in the capital.

He or she will also appear at a monthly question time that, depending on the incumbent, could provide a rival attraction to Prime Minister's Questions in the Commons.

The Greater London Authority Bill will create one of the most powerful political posts outside the Cabinet. The mayor will have direct command over a new body, Transport for London, which will be responsible for co-ordinating the Tube, roads, taxis and river travel as well as influencing the running of commuter

trains. A 23-member Police Authority for London will report to the mayor, rather than the Home Secretary, as will a 17-strong fire and civil emergency authority.

The mayor will be expected to draw up strategies for planning and attracting investment to the capital, and will have responsibility for culture and the arts, public health and the environment.

The mayoral office, together with the authority and assembly, will be funded largely by a grant from central Government. The mayor will have the power to raise extra money through London council taxes, although limited by Westminster.

Council 'hit squads'

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CORRESPONDENT

TOWN HALLS

MINISTERS will have new powers to send in "hit squads" to deal with failing councils under the Local Government (Best Value and Capping) Bill.

New "external audit and inspection" systems will be set up. The Bill will also scrap compulsory competitive tendering (CCT), under which councils must put out to tender the provision of services such as refuse collection. CCT will be replaced with a "best value"

system, requiring councils to review services every five years, to set performance targets and to publish achievements in the local press.

Ministers will retain powers to limit excessive council tax increases, but will be able to take local circumstances into account. Councils which overspend will be allowed to reduce their budgets over a number of years. Plans for directly elected mayors in England have been delayed.

Fog of war obscures Lords battlefield

THE House of Lords will never be properly reformed until the party leaders start thinking seriously, rather than merely exchanging vacuous slogans.

William Hague yesterday championed "our independent second chamber", while the Prime Minister attacked the permanent dominance of the Lords by Conservative hereditary peers. Both claims are misleading and ignore the main question — the powers of the House of Lords in relation to the Commons.

Of course, the Lords are not really independent at present. The Upper House was at times a nuisance to the Thatcher Governments. But apart from a few human rights and constitutional issues, this opposition had no impact on the main Thatcherite programmes, such as privatisation and trade union reform. The Lords has an in-built Tory majority which may not be apparent day-to-day among regularly attending peers but can be mobilised on anything important. Labour Governments suffer from defeats in the Lords far more often than Tory ones do.

Tony Blair is wrong to talk about a battle of hereditary peers versus elected MPs. This implies that it would have been all right last week if the Government had been defeated just on the votes of life peers rather than hereditaries. This is nonsense. What was wrong was that the unelected

Peter RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

House (both hereditary and life peers) breached constitutional conventions in overturning the views of the Commons five times.

The Conservatives talk as if a perfect constitutional settlement is being upset by new Labour vandals. In reality, an unsatisfactory second chamber has been kept alive by the self-restraint, until now, of their lordships. Peers have accepted that their job is largely to make up for the inadequacies of the House of Commons in considering legislation, which are now at last being corrected.

The whole balance is now, however, being upset. Mr Hague made much of the creation of a "House of Crooks". Enough of the creations since the general election fit that label for it to stick, even though my hunch is that the Lords will turn out to be quite troublesome for Mr Blair after the hereditaries have been removed. That will underline the unstable nature of the transitional arrangements.

The main battle will now be over that interim phase. Mr Hague argued for delaying legislation on hereditaries until the promised royal commission has reported and people are able to see where the Government is going. That is a canny ap-

proach, though Mr Hague will find it hard to escape being depicted as defender of the hereditaries.

Mr Blair repeated his pledge that no single party would have an overall majority in the reformed Upper House, that a strong independent crossbench element would be preserved and that the Prime Minister would relinquish his present sole right to recommend life peers. These are significant safeguards. But there is still uncertainty over timing.

Paddy Ashdown urged the Government to make early progress on setting out their plans and a short timetable, with the royal commission reporting "not later than the spring of 2000".

Mr Blair did announce that Labour would be setting out, as a submission to the commission, "what the final stage of reform should look like" (as it did to the Neill committee on party funding).

However, the Government seems to be taking rather a dilatory attitude to the pace of reform. The signs are that nothing may happen until the new year. This is partly to ensure that the row over the Lords does not derail the rest of a crowded legislative programme. But the sooner the Government declares its thinking on the long-term future of the second chamber, the better its chance of succeeding where its predecessors have failed over the past century.

Pilot lands the big one



World Rally victory on Michelin

Michelin Pilot Tommi Makinen in his Mitsubishi clinched the 1998 World Rally Championship title on the Network Q Rally of Great Britain. But the ultimate winner is you the motorist. Pilots tested to the limits in motorsport ensure you get tyres that excel on the road. Fit the tyres fit for the World Rally Champions - Michelin Pilot Sport.



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هكذا من الأصل

Asylum-seekers lose benefits to save £250m

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

IMMIGRATION

ASYLUM-SEEKERS are to lose their right to social security benefits under reforms of an immigration system overwhelmed by economic migrants.

The Government is seeking to cut by half the estimated £500 million asylum-seekers cost each year and to let the world know that Britain is no longer an attractive destination for economic migrants, rather than genuine refugees.

Ministers have described the existing immigration system as a shambles and say that because of the backlog 110,000 refugees whose claims have been rejected would have to be removed by 2002. Last year there were 32,500 asylum applicants and the figure is expected to be 38,000 this year; there were 4,000 in 1998.

A new national agency is to be established to provide support for asylum-seekers among other services. It will provide vouchers to be exchanged in shops for food and clothing. They are to be dis-

persed around the country in bed and breakfast accommodation, hostels and disused council housing that they will have to take. The aim is to ease the burden on London boroughs such as Lambeth and Brent.

To speed up the handling of appeals—there is a backlog of 23,000—the existing two-tier system is to be replaced with a single mechanism headed by a High Court or circuit judge. Immigration advisers are to be regulated to end abuses that have led to people from the ethnic minority communities paying substantial amounts for bad advice. There have also been reports of unqualified advisers being involved in the provision of false passports and urging people to make up false stories about persecution.

Nick Hardwick, of the Refugee Council, said the Government had chosen a high risk strategy that risked replacing one shambles with another. The Medical Foundation for



the Care of Victims of Torture gave warning that torture survivors could be deprived of medical treatment because of the Government's plans. The foundation, which treats more than 50 refugees a day at its centre in North London, fears that if they are sent to far-off locations they will no longer have access to appropriate care or to their community groups and assistance bodies concentrated in the London area.

Helen Bamber, the foundation's director, denounced the

voucher scheme for asylum-seekers' benefits as "dehumanising", as it would place refugees in a position of absolute dependency and deny them the opportunity to pay for a bus fare, a public lavatory or a treat for a child. "No cash and less dignity is the Government's new covenant with those seeking protection in Britain from human rights abuses abroad," she said.

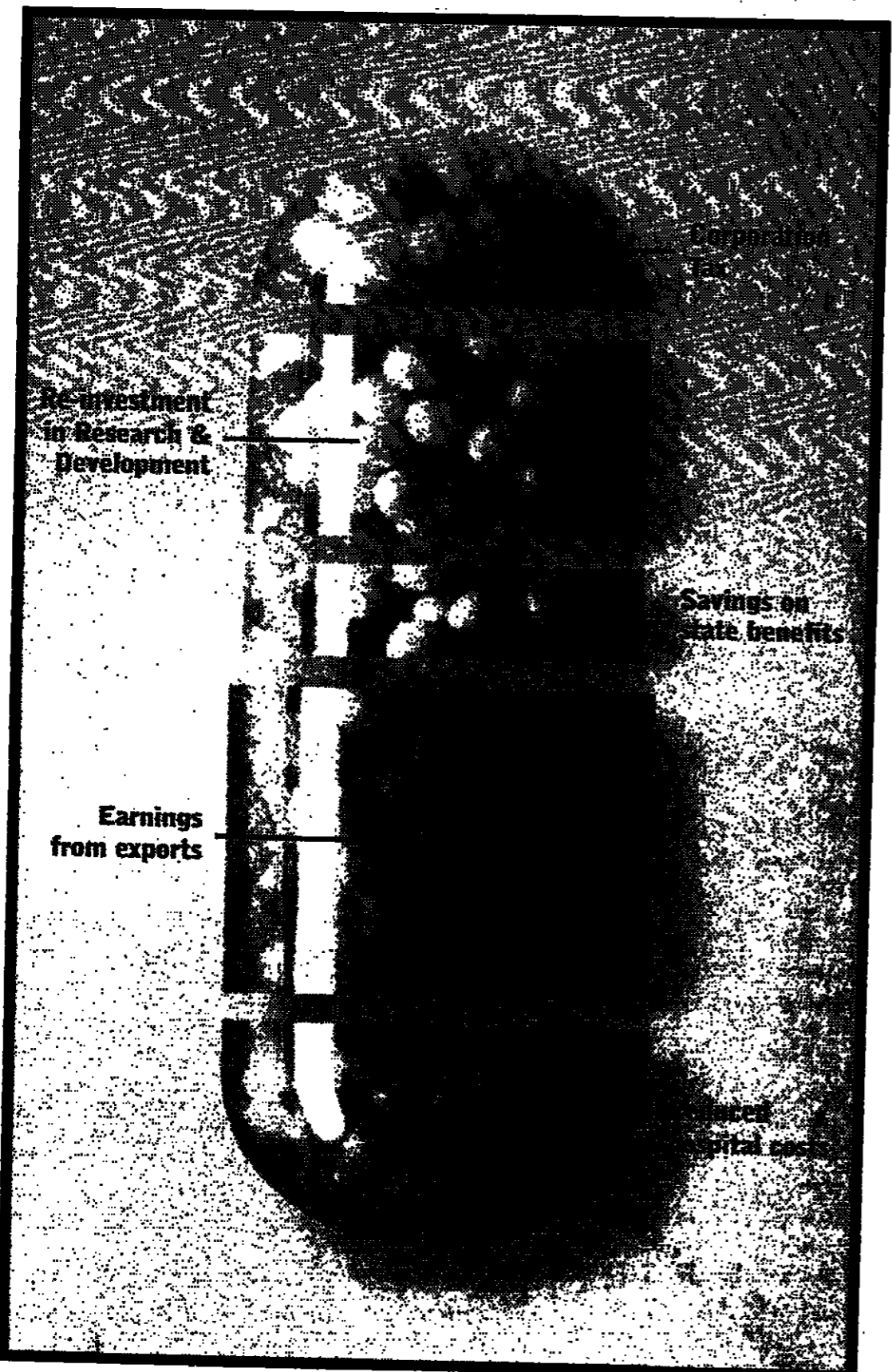
Imam Sajid, of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, welcomed the plans. "They will bring major change and we anticipate that they will make entry more difficult for those whose claims are not credible. Tightening up controls on unscrupulous immigration advisers will be good for race relations."

Local authorities which take the burden of dealing with asylum-seekers welcomed moves to disperse applicants. Chris Lean, of Dover District Council, said the town's annual bill for housing 400 asylum-seekers was £70,000, although Kent County Council was paying for education and other services.



These eastern European refugees, waiting to enter Britain at Calais, decided not to try after others had been turned away

Sickness Benefit.



This year, the National Health Service will spend £6 billion on medicines - about 25 pence per person per day.

In return, the pharmaceutical industry will re-invest some 20% of its annual turnover in the search for new and improved medicines.

This investment will benefit the National Health Service by helping to reduce hospital admissions and saving over £10 billion a year on patient care.

The value of medicines goes far beyond supporting the NHS. The pharmaceutical industry provides employment for more than 300,000 people and exports over £5 billion of medicines a year, producing one of the country's largest trade surpluses of £2 billion.

Over the past five years pharmaceutical companies have committed over £2 billion in capital investment, and more is planned.

The benefit of the industry is also felt within the Treasury as pharmaceutical companies in Britain pay hundreds of millions of pounds in Corporation Tax each year.

But perhaps the industry is least known for its investment in education, funding half of all post-graduate training for GPs and supporting universities to the tune of £100 million a year.

If all this good work is not encouraged, it wouldn't just be the industry that would fall sick.

It would be the country. **abpi**
The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
12 Whitehall London SW1A 2DY

'Education is Government's top priority'

This is an edited text of the Queen's Speech to Parliament yesterday.

MY LORDS and Members of the House of Commons, this is my Government's second legislative programme. Like the first, it will focus upon the modernisation of the country. My Government will continue with economic policies designed to build stability for the long term, making the United Kingdom well placed not just to weather the international financial storms but to emerge stronger from them.

The central economic objectives of my Government are high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

My Government believes the decision to give the Bank of England the power to set interest rates has been crucial to the meeting of its inflation target.

Education remains my Government's top priority. A consultation paper will be brought forward on the most far-reaching reforms of the teaching profession in 50 years to enhance the status of teachers and reward high performance.

My Government will continue to build a modern National Health Service. A Bill will be introduced to replace the NHS internal market which put hospitals, doctors and nurses in competition with each other. In its place will be decentralised arrangements based on partnership, quality and efficiency.

My Government will continue to tackle crime and its causes. A Bill will be introduced to modernise the youth courts and to give greater protection for vulnerable witnesses in criminal cases. My Government will introduce legislation to modernise legal aid to make the system fairer and more cost effective.

My Lords and Members of the House of Commons, my Government has made clear its determination to modernise the welfare state. A Bill will be introduced giving greater help to those in need by reforming benefits for people with long-term illness or disabilities, and modernising benefits for widows.

My Government will continue to work in partnership with business, and welcome the improved relations between business and trade unions. They will bring forward measures to establish

a balance of rights and responsibilities for employers and employees.

My Government have fulfilled their commitment to establish a Scottish parliament and a Welsh assembly. In Northern Ireland, my Government will continue to work towards the full implementation of the Belfast Agreement.

Legislation will be introduced to create a new Greater London authority made up of a directly-elected mayor and a separately elected assembly.

There will be a range of powers, including new powers to tackle road congestion and improve public transport. Regional development agencies will be established in England, decentralising

decision-taking to the English regions.

A Bill will be introduced to remove the right of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the House of Lords. It will be the first stage in a process of reform to make the House of Lords more democratic and representative.

My Government will publish a White Paper setting out arrangements for a new system of appointments of life peers and establish a Royal Commission to review further changes.

My Government propose that a draft Freedom of Information Bill be given pre-legislative scrutiny.

My Government are committed to tackling global poverty and promoting sustainable development. My Government will play a leading role in preparing the European Union for the historic challenge of enlargement. In particular, they will work to secure reform of the Common Agricultural Policy and Structural and Cohesion Funds.

My Government will ensure strong arrangements for defence based on the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, and promote peace and security, especially in the Middle East and in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They will also actively pursue a resolution to the problem

in Kosovo. My Government remain committed to the effective promotion of human rights worldwide.

My Government see this as a substantial set of measures seeking to meet the important and difficult challenges before us.

My Lords and Members of the House of Commons: I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.

'A Bill will remove the right of hereditary peers to sit and vote'

'Economic policies will build stability for the long term'

DELAY TO FINANCIAL SERVICES REFORM: BUSINESS, PAGE 27

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AY NOVEMBER 25 1998
education is
overnment's
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IBM announces
{ a Web server }

that can handle 20 million transactions a day.

Can support up to 50,000 users.

Can deliver 99.999% availability.*

And is a hacker's worst nightmare.



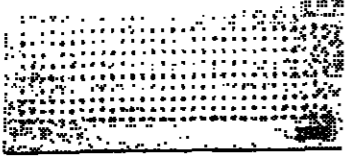
Surprise, it's your IBM S/390 enterprise server.

e-business isn't just about having a Web site. It's far beyond that. e-business is about conducting huge amounts of electronic transactions between you, your customers, your suppliers - everyone. So the large enterprise server you bought a while back has become the best Web server available.

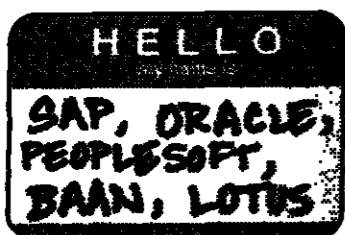
Suddenly, all those issues which led to your original S/390 decision are at play on a scale larger than ever envisioned. Which means your S/390 server wasn't as much a hardware purchase as it was a strategic choice.

Placing your enterprise data on your S/390 server means that information doesn't need to be replicated and can always be up-to-date.

As it stands, you have a Web server with the security and availability you'll need in the next century: your S/390.



After three decades of transformation, the IBM S/390 server sets the standard for e-business transaction serving.



IBM is working with hundreds of developers to Web-enable your S/390. To date, 1,700 new or modernised Web applications are available, with close to a thousand new ones on the way.

IBM S/390. Instant WEB server. If you think about it, you already have an enormous wealth of data on your S/390. By transforming their own S/390 enterprise server, many e-businesses have found themselves able to leverage and extend their existing system and the data that already resides there.

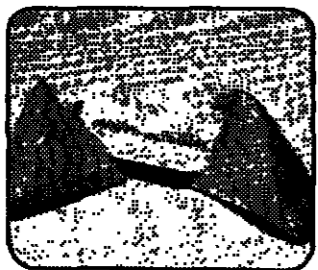
Take Volvo, for example. They Web-enabled an S/390 to access corporate data, thereby integrating delivery schedules, as well as spare parts and technical information for dealers. The results are greatly improved customer service and higher profit.

The Web conversion happens at the software level and involves minimum hassle. In fact, you can create a secure, 24-hour front door to your business without needing to cobble together additional servers and software.

Customers can track orders and check the status of their accounts online.

Partners can collaborate with you at all hours to wring time out of the production cycle.

Suppliers can post to your payment systems in real time.



The IBM S/390 hums along with no more than five minutes of planned or unplanned downtime. A year.

24/7/365 isn't a locker combination. The hottest topics in computing today are scalability, security, and most of all, availability - issues that were once talked about primarily at the mainframe level.

Now server companies are claiming mainframe attributes for their UNIX® and PC servers (in fact, chances are that at least one of your PC or UNIX servers is down right now). These distributed servers are not an S/390 enterprise server and never will be. Not alone, not clustered together. And in an e-business environment, deploying a clutch of servers that can't deliver 24x7 availability is like locking customers out of the store. Customers who can go to a competitor's site with two clicks of the mouse. However, with the latest generation of S/390 Parallel Sysplex® technology, you are guaranteed the closest thing to continuous computing, with a design point of 99.999% availability.

As a Web server, it's capable of handling up to 400,000,000 hits or 20,000,000 transactions a day, or up to 50,000 users simultaneously.



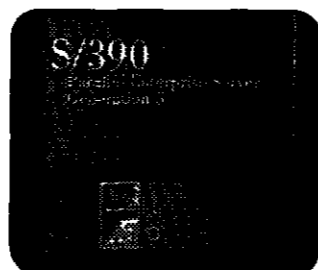
A network based on multiple servers can be open to multiple problems. And enormous complexity equals enormous costs.

Run a data mine, not a server farm. An infrastructure built on multiple servers can be open to multiple management problems. Just deploying a new major application requires a visit to each and every server. And in the environment of enterprise computing, it's a mathematical fact that enormous complexity equals enormous costs (no wonder Wachovia Bank N.A. chose to eliminate 90% of the office automation servers in their information services department through an S/390 consolidation).

With your S/390 only a single copy of a program needs to be changed on the server in order, for example, to improve the interface of your Web site, deploy a new ERP program or upgrade your e-mail capabilities.

Instead of putting critical business applications at the fingertips of the users who need them, PC, and even many UNIX servers, create islands of information that can be nearly impossible to keep up-to-date.

Your bulletproof S/390, on the other hand, is a network of one, and has the ability to extract insight from mountains of information and reveal relationships and trends that were previously invisible.



By year's end, 2,300 organisations will have Web-enabled large enterprise servers. By the end of the decade, more than 10,000 will be operational.

Lower costs. The transactional costs of e-business can be a fraction of those of traditional commerce. You already know that.

But costs can still vary wildly depending on what hardware strategy you use. As their Web volume grows and companies use the network to perform vital tasks like managing their supply chains or implementing customer service apps, the benefits of one scalable enterprise server over dozens or even hundreds of smaller servers become apparent.

An International Technology Group^{1*} survey found that with true enterprise servers, the average cost-per-use in transaction processing was 76% lower than for centralised UNIX servers.

That's a staggering difference.

With your S/390 server, you get what is described by industry consultants as the lowest cost-per-user computing environment in the industry.

So where do you go from here? With whom do you talk with to transform your S/390 into your enterprise Web server?

IBM can provide a way to get your existing set of servers consolidated and to train your staff to manage and continue the process. Our entire organisation is ready to help your company run more efficiently, more quickly and more profitably.

To learn how the S/390 is the defining standard in enterprise computing, type in www.ibm.com/s390/web

*These figures were achieved using S/390's unique Parallel Sysplex clustering technology. 10 November, 1997. Issue date US edition. Source: Cost Implications of Platform Choice Management Brief, 1997 IBM and noted IBM product names are registered trademarks or trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation in the U.S. and/or other countries.



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'Slave hotel' of Saudi prince angers Egypt

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER
MIDDLE EAST
CORRESPONDENT

ALLEGATIONS of outrageous behaviour towards servants and Egyptians by a big-spending Saudi prince and his foreign bodyguards living in a Cairo hotel are threatening a diplomatic crisis between Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

The dispute is one of several in recent years since Prince Turki bin Abdul Aziz — one of six full brothers of the ailing Saudi monarch, King Fahd — took up residence in the Ramesses Hilton. It came to light this week when two servants were seriously injured after escaping by lowering themselves on knotted bedsheets from a window on the 26th floor of the 36-storey hotel overlooking the Nile.

Ahmed Nureddin Ahmed, a butler, and Ahmed Abdel-Satar, a cook, told police that the 55-year-old prince had locked them in a room after they complained of mistreatment. They said they had not been paid for five months and that other servants were still locked up on the 28th and 29th floors of the hotel, where the Saudi entourage has been in



Prince Turki: escaping servants injured

costly sole residence for many years. According to hotel employees and police sources from the nearby Bulaq district — one of Cairo's notorious inner-city slums — the two were hurt when they jumped to a balcony on the 24th floor.

An Egyptian journalist said that he and other guests were prevented from getting to the floors by a large squad of private bodyguards led by an ex-member of the French Foreign Legion. In the past, complaints of tussling behaviour by bodyguards of visiting Saudi royalty have frequently

been hushed up by the Cairo authorities to avoid embarrassing publicity. This time, 27 members of the Egyptian parliament are pressing the Government to explain how the Prince was able to keep his servants locked in the hotel with impunity.

Led by the ruling party deputy, Yehya Shaalan, the MPs have demanded a public debate in the People's Assembly concerning the fate of nine Egyptian servants who, it is claimed, have been locked up for several months.

Relatives of the servants have also filed requests with the public prosecutor's office demanding their release. Nabih al-Wahsh, a lawyer, added to the scandal by asking a Cairo court to order ministers to expel the Prince from Egypt.

According to diplomats, he has lived in the country for many years, since falling out with his brothers over his marriage to a Saudi woman of Moroccan origin. At the time, he had amassed a large fortune in his role as Deputy Defence Minister.

Stories of profligate spending dogged the family and forced him to seek exile in Egypt.



Victory role: the pilot celebrates after the first Palestinian Airlines aircraft landed yesterday at the new Gaza International Airport

State hopes soar as Gaza opens airport

Rafah, Gaza Strip. Palestinians hailed their first airport, inaugurated yesterday, as a symbol of statehood and a sign that the peace process with Israel was moving forward.

Crowds of men, women and children, many of whom had never seen an aircraft on the ground, cheered,

danced and sang as nine aircraft flew in from Arab states and Europe to a red-carpet welcome from Yasser Arafat, the beaming Palestinian leader.

"God willing, aeroplanes will fly from this airport carrying pilgrims to Jerusalem," Mr Arafat said in the airport VIP lounge, the roof of which is

topped with a golden orb shaped in the style of the Dome of the Rock mosque in the Holy City.

Until now, he has had to be driven to El Arish in Egypt to fly abroad since his arrival in Gaza in 1994 after the start of limited Palestinian self-rule.

The opening of the airport, built with \$250 million (£150 million) in deferred loans, was stalled for 20 months in the freeze that had beset Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking. An agreement allowing it to operate was signed last Friday under the Wye interim peace deal, which the two sides negotiated last month. (Reuters)

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Iraqi groups plead for funds to fight Saddam

IRAQI opposition leaders yesterday urged Martin Indyk, the US Assistant Secretary of State, to back American promises of support with substantial political and material backing for their fight to overthrow President Saddam Hussein.

At a meeting in the American Embassy in London, Mr Indyk met the 16 leaders of the various London-based opposition groups who had talks with Derek Fatchett, a Foreign Office Minister, on Monday.

The meeting came as Iraq accused America and its allies of trying to split the country through military action and sanctions. Tariq Aziz, the Deputy Prime Minister, told the opening of a poetry festival in Baghdad: "The tyrants and the evil of the world, America and the Zionists, and whoever is serving their interests and schemes today seek — as they did in the past and failed — to humiliate Iraq and bring it to its knees by threatening destruction." But he added: "They have forgotten that they have tried and failed before and they will fail this time also."

Iraqi newspapers also called the United States and Britain "uncivilised and immoral" for trying to rally exiled Iraqi dissidents to oust Saddam, *al-Jumhuriya* newspaper said. America and Britain had begun promoting their "evil ideas" of interfering in the nation's internal affairs after they had failed to destroy Iraq.

"What kind of morality have the ruling authorities reached in the two imperialist states? What kind of naive thinking do those gullible and deluded people have in understanding the reality of the Iraqis and the determination of its leaders?" the paper asked.

The Americans have promised some \$97 million (£60

American official hosts talks with exile factions in London, reports Michael Binyon

million) in aid to opposition groups, but have made no specific pledges of arms supplies. Britain has flatly refused to discuss weapons deliveries. At their meeting on Monday, Mr Fatchett advised them to outline to Mr Indyk what other support the West could give — including the setting-up of a broadcasting station.

Iraqi papers yesterday did not comment on the assassination attempt on Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council. Iraq's serving Ambassador to the United Nations, is to be replaced. His place will be taken by Saeed Hasan.

The move is part of a shake-up of 25 senior Iraqi representatives overseas, which also sees the replacement of Barzan Takriti, Saddam's half-brother — who was earlier recalled as representative to the UN in Geneva — by a former Baghdad University Dean of Law, Nabil Nejm, the Iraqi Ambassador to the Arab League, has been replaced by a former chairman of the Iraqi parliament's legal committee.

Saddam's half-brother, who was rumoured to be on the point of defection, has been granted a "courtesy extension" to stay in Switzerland until the end of the month, after the recent death of his wife.

Mr Hamdoun, formerly an ambassador to Washington, was one of the most popular and influential Iraqi envoys overseas. He has shown consistent loyalty to Saddam, but his easy manner and Western ways may have made him suspect in the leader's eyes.

Richard Butler, the chief United Nations weapons inspector. "What this accused devil wants is unequivocally what the United States wants. This is why he is like an enraged bull, like a Satan instilling evil in every crisis provoked by America against Iraq," the newspaper said.

Russia yesterday also attacked the meeting of opposition groups with British and American officials. The Foreign Ministry yesterday regretted that "certain countries, including Britain, have called for the overthrow of the Iraqi regime". It said: "Only the Iraqi people must decide problems with their Government."

Iraq announced yesterday that Nizar Hamdoun, its long-serving Ambassador to the United Nations, is to be replaced. His place will be taken by Saeed Hasan.

The move is part of a shake-up of 25 senior Iraqi representatives overseas, which also sees the replacement of Barzan Takriti, Saddam's half-brother — who was earlier recalled as representative to the UN in Geneva — by a former Baghdad University Dean of Law, Nabil Nejm, the Iraqi Ambassador to the Arab League, has been replaced by a former chairman of the Iraqi parliament's legal committee.

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Disillusion grows over South Korea's 'sunshine policy'

FROM DAVID WATTS
IN SEOUL



President Kim: detente with North is under fire

THE more South Korea tries to woo the Communist North the less it gets in return. Hardliners in both Seoul and Pyongyang are making the "sunshine policy" of Kim Dae Jung, the South's President, hard to justify.

The South Korean and American military commands are reportedly updating Plan 5027 — the swift occupation of the North that would follow any attack on the South which includes the possible use of nuclear weapons. A Seoul newspaper claimed yesterday that Pyongyang had already tested a trigger for a nuclear bomb.

Just as Iraq plays hard to get with United Nations access to its weapons programme, so North Korea is now denying American access to what is suspected to be a new nuclear site.

Diplomats in Seoul say that the US is in a dilemma over how to handle this Iraq of the Orient.

James Lilley, formerly the US Ambassador to Seoul, said: "It's absolute blackmail. Clinton has dug himself into a hole on this one. Every time we make a demand it's \$300 million (£184 million) for this or 300,000 tons of grain for that. It's time the US got out of the way and left policy to the South Koreans. They know how to handle them."

Mr Lilley argues that the Agreed Framework is a failure. Under the deal, the US will pay up to \$4.5 billion, Japan \$1 billion and South Korea will fund 70 per cent of two light-water nuclear reactors promised to the North for electricity generation in return for an end to its nuclear pro-

gramme. Increasingly, South Korean academics outside the Government agree with Mr Lilley and say that President Kim must draw the line. The South Korean leader is trying to bring change to the North through business, investment and tourism. Nothing could better illustrate the contradictions of the "sunshine policy" than an incident last week when a South Korean cruise liner made the first tourist visit to a North Korean port. At almost exactly the same time that it was docking, with hundreds of tourists bringing cash to the east coast of North Korea, a Communist spy boat was racing through South Korean waters on the west of the peninsula.

Whether it was intending to drop off or pick up an agent is unclear but the South Korean military failed to spot it and is once again in hot water.

But a former government official said: "While our tourists are going up there, they are developing rockets and selling weapons. The sunshine policy is inherently limited in dealing with the North."

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Marbles lose out to God and mammon in great Greek debate

AS THE Prince of Wales discovered to his annoyance during his visit to Greece this week, few local politicians can resist the opportunity to make an impassioned public appeal for the return of the Elgin Marbles from the British Museum.

Dig a little deeper, however, and the issue, which at times seems to dominate Anglo-Greek affairs, hardly raises an eyebrow among ordinary Greeks, who feel a far greater affinity with their Byzantine heritage than with ancient Greece.

For some time now, politics and its nationalist symbols have been losing their attraction for the Greeks.

Austerity, uncertainty over the euro, and the chances of being able to buy a new car next year and get that summer home fixed up all now weigh more on the public consciousness. Ancient Greece, or the modern conception of it, understand-

The heritage issue so dear to politicians leaves voters cold, writes John Carr from Athens

ly looms large in the modern Greeks' sense of themselves. Throughout this century, however, the classical past has been pressed into service as a flagwaver.

Its latest function is that of a boost for politicians thirsty for public applause. Despite polite yet firm rebuffs from Tony Blair and Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, Athens repeats its demand time and again. Evangelos Venizelos, the Minister for Culture, with an unerring eye for publicity, has made the Marbles the central theme of an irredentist foreign policy in which diplomatic conventions and niceties, not to mention the Foreign Ministry itself, are brushed aside. The conserva-

tive opposition party, New Democracy, has avoided sticking its neck out. Given the political capital to be made, however, that stance could soon end. Hours before the Prince of Wales bent his ear to Mr Venizelos's latest appeal, the conservative and highly popular Mayor of Athens, Dimítris Avramopoulos, reinforced the call.

There is no logical reason, the official Greek argument runs, why the Marbles should not be returned to their homeland, there to be exhibited and viewed as an inalienable part of Greece's past. Diplomatic battle was first joined in 1982 by the late actress, Melina Mercouri, the Minister for Culture in the country's first Socialist Cabinet. Despite her propagandist talents, the Greek case was weakened from the beginning by its political angle. Any mention of the Greek relics in the Louvre, for example, was avoided so as not to embarrass the French Socialist Government. The Greek stand was then hastily modified to emphasise that the Marbles in the British Museum are a missing part of the unified Parthenon sculptures.

This abstract argument leaves large segments of the Greek public cold. There is a sense of resentment about having to beg for anything at all, combined with an aversion to things classical that is traceable to the compulsory teaching of classical Greek in schools until the mid-1980s. Many, if not most, Greeks recall the ordeal of memorising Homer and Xen-

ophon with a shudder. The Parthenon is visible from hundreds of flats, offices and hotel rooms and familiarity may have bred contempt. I was recently told of a taxi driver who, while near the Acropolis, pointed to the hill and boasted to his passenger that in half a century of being a cabbie he had "never once set foot on that thing".

Unwilling to be taken for tourists, most Greeks only visit the Acropolis on school trips. It is no accident that it is Greece's foreign community, including a good many Britons, that has been petitioning for the Marbles' return.

Greece's most popular figure is Archbishop Christodoulos, head of the National Orthodox Church, the sole remaining symbol of the pomp and spirituality of the Byzantine Empire. This is no coincidence. Byzantium, not the Athens of Peri-

Leading article, page 23

Bishop in business scandal resigns

BY MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

A GREEK Cypriot bishop at the centre of numerous fraud allegations involving spectacular amounts of money in several countries, including Britain, has been forced to resign by the island's Orthodox Church. Bishop Chrysanthos of Limassol escaped the humiliation of being defrocked, but was suspended for two years.

His business dealings have made local headlines for months, damaging the reputation of the Church, which has also been rocked by a series of sex scandals.

A Limassol priest was defrocked last month after abandoning his wife and four children to clope with a Romanian striptease artist.

Cypriot police are also investigating another priest, who was allegedly blackmailed into drug dealing after being photographed naked with a transvestite.

The activities of Bishop Chrysanthos first came under the spotlight in the summer, when he was named by four people arrested in Britain in connection with an alleged £2 million fraud. Two Scotland Yard detectives spent several weeks in Cyprus.

The bishop denies the accusations and insists he has stepped down only for the good of the Church.

Mossad agent quits in latest spying fiasco

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

A SENIOR official of Mossad, the Israeli intelligence agency, has reportedly resigned after the third bungled spy operation in a year — the arrest of two agents in Cyprus.

The Israeli Hebrew daily newspaper, Haaretz, reported yesterday that the Mossad chief, Ephraim Halevy, had accepted the resignation of the operations chief, who is known publicly only as "Y".

"Before it was determined who was responsible for the foul-up, Y took ministerial responsibility upon himself for it," the paper said.

The two agents were caught with tape recordings of police conversations and surveillance devices near an army base on the Mediterranean island earlier this month.

They were charged with spying in a court in Larnaca last Friday. Their request for bail was denied and they were ordered to stand trial on December 8.

The agents, Udi Hargov, 27, and Yigal Damary, 47, who were caught in the coastal village of Zyia, have also been charged with illegal posses-

sion of wireless equipment for espionage use and conspiracy to commit a crime.

The two have claimed they are innocent, but their arrest has soured relations between Cyprus and Israel and came only days after President Weizman ended the first official visit to the Mediterranean island by an Israeli head of state.

Cyprus has accused the two of operating with a "specific intelligence institute whose headquarters is in Tel Aviv". Police on the island have also said the two were spying on behalf of Turkey, which has a defence pact with Israel.

The Israeli Government has not acknowledged publicly that the two are Mossad agents, saying only that they did not spy on behalf of Turkey and were not trying to hurt Cypriot interests.

The operations chief also offered his resignation earlier this year after Swiss police arrested five Mossad agents for allegedly spying in a residential area of Bern. A former Mossad chief, Danny Yatom, resigned in February after a

failed attempt to assassinate Khaled Meshaal, a leader of Hamas, the militant Islamic group, in Jordan.

The incident led to a bitter attack on Israel by King Hussein of Jordan, regarded as the closest Arab ally of the Jewish State, but Y was apparently not involved in that operation.

While Mossad has recently fallen from glory, its reputation remained unscathed after one of Israel's greatest spying scandals — the arrest in 1985 of Jonathan Pollard.

An American Jew employed in US Navy Intelligence, Mr Pollard spied for Israel under a special unit of the Israeli Ministry of Defence.

There was much debate in Israel after the disclosure that such a unit was engaged in espionage and not subject to Mossad supervision.

The Government of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, has recently attempted to secure Mr Pollard's release. But the affair has left American intelligence agencies distrustful of their counterparts in the Jewish state.



Ephraim Halevy, head of Mossad, who is reported to have accepted the resignation of his operations chief, known as "Y", after two agents were arrested in Cyprus

Hopes of Cyprus missile deal rise

WESTERN hopes are rising of a deal to halt the deployment of Russian missiles in Cyprus and the threatened Turkish military retaliation (Michael Binyon writes).

President Clerides of Cyprus yesterday had talks in London with Sir David Hannay, the European Union special representative, before going to Athens, where he is likely to face pressure to postpone or cancel the missile deployment on the Greek side of the divided island.

Any deal would be based on a moratorium on military flights over Cyprus. This could be used as a pretext by the Cyprus Government to declare that the missiles were no longer needed. Sir David yesterday described his talks with Mr Clerides as positive, but refused to give any details.

He recently held talks in Ankara, which sources suggested also went well.

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Scientific Research

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Fees and Starting Dates

The fees of Maharishi Open University have been structured to make this education easily available to everyone.

Tuition for the Certificate in Total Knowledge course (taken four hours per week over six months—two hours twice per week) will be £210. Some scholarships will be available to students with financial need. Special tuitions for whole families are also available.

Maharishi Open University will begin its first course on the auspicious full moon day, December 3rd, 1998. Already over 10,000 students from 116 countries have applied. Admission on December 3rd is still possible, but you may also enter on the following full moon day, January 2nd, 1999.

The programmes of Maharishi Open University are being offered under the auspices of Maharishi University of Management, Holland, with the support of Maharishi University of Management, USA; Maharishi Vedic University, India; Maharishi Vedic University, Russia; and Maharishi Vedic College, Australia.

How to Receive Further Information:

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Funeral bares desperation in Russia's soul

THE funeral yesterday of Galina Starovoitova, the murdered reformist Duma deputy, has provoked an outbreak of mass soul-searching in Russia by politicians and the electorate. As leading democrats gathered in the Marble Hall of the Museum of Ethnography in St Petersburg to pay their respects before the burial at the Alexander Nevsky Monastery, they were united both by their grief and by their desire to turn Mrs Starovoitova's death into something positive for Russia.

The extent of the country's lawlessness and corruption has been exposed beyond doubt and there is a pervasive feeling that this assassination is the last straw for those al-

The murder of a Duma reformer has united the nation, writes Anna Blundy

ready sickened by the perceived moral decline since the end of the Soviet era. An editorial in *Izvestia* stated: "Evil fears nothing today because it knows that it will not be punished. The proof is in the numerous high-profile crimes that have never been solved, in the widespread embezzlement and bribe-taking by govern-

ment officials (federal and local), in the unprecedented theft by bankers who have instantly robbed hundreds of thousands of their clients, and finally in the rise of fascism in Russia."

Mrs Starovoitova's death, which Dmitri Yakushkin, Boris Yeltsin's press secretary, has said is partly to blame for the President's continuing hospital treatment for pneumonia, is thought to have been linked to her intention to run for the governorship of the Leningrad region. Vladimir Zhirnovsky, the ultra-nationalist whom Mrs Starovoitova hoped to beat in those elections, told the RIA news agency: "There is a feeling someone is clearing space ahead of the St Petersburg polls."

Certainly the killing is seen as an attack on the movement for democracy and reform. "Do they want to stop us? Do they want to scare us?" asked Anatoli Chubais, one of the leading architects of Russian reform, after the funeral.

Viktor Chernomyrdin, the former Prime Minister and leader of the Our Home is Russia party, spoke at the funeral, saying that Russia's democratic forces should unite against the country's communists and fascists.

However, neither he nor Mr Chubais is free from the accusations of corruption that saturate Russian politics. Both are apparently included in the CIA report, claiming to represent conclusive evidence of corruption, that was submitted to



Mourners pay their last respects to Galina Starovoitova in St Petersburg yesterday. Her body was later buried at the Alexander Nevsky Monastery



Boris Nemtsov, former Deputy Prime Minister, with Mrs Starovoitova's mother, Rimza, at the funeral

the office of Al Gore, the American Vice-President, in 1995.

Mr Yeltsin himself, whose anti-corruption ticket won him the presidency, has also been the subject of claims of illegal activity. Viktor Ilyukhin, a Communist at the forefront of the failed campaign to impeach the President and to have him retired on health grounds, has produced documents seeming to give President Yeltsin the right to control 26 per cent of shares in ORT, a television company owned by Boris Berezovsky, the businessman.

The President's administration denies any wrongdoing on the part of Mr Yeltsin and

the scheme has been widely dismissed as something cooked up by Aleksandr Korzhakov, Mr Yeltsin's former bodyguard.

Mr Berezovsky is at the centre of a separate scandal precipitated by his claims that the Federal Security Service (FSB) had issued orders to kill him. President Yeltsin has ordered an investigation into corruption in the FSB after this and other reports of murder plots, kidnappings, extortion and infiltration by organised crime groups.

Mr Berezovsky's claims, backed up by several FSB officers, have been flatly denied by Vladimir Putin, the organisa-

tion's director and the man at the head of the Starovoitova investigation, who is threatening to sue for libel.

Mr Berezovsky has been active in the recent campaign against anti-Semitism by the Communist Party, brought to the fore by the rampantly anti-Semitic and unchallenged remarks of a leading Communist, General Albert Makashov. The increasingly blatant xenophobia of the Communists prompted *Izvestia* magazine to feature a photograph of Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist leader, on its cover with a Hitler-style moustache scrawled over his top lip. Mr Zyuganov, whose party is also

in a dispute with Russia's media, demanding censorship, is threatening legal action against the magazine.

The Communists and their nationalist allies have been publicly blamed for the death of Mrs Starovoitova, but Mr Zyuganov believes that the Russian experiment with democracy is the real culprit.

He says that the changes in Russia since the Soviet era have led to "new attacks on state security and interior agencies by liberal radicals".

Few Russians nowadays have any faith in the integrity of their politicians or businessmen. Claims by Grigori Yavlinsky, a liberal radical and Ya-

bloko party presidential candidate, of corruption in the Government and allegations that many government positions have been bought for bribes are supported by 63 per cent of Muscovites.

Political target: Shots were fired at the home of a politician in St Petersburg, the *Interfax* news agency said. The police did not say if the incident was connected to the murder of Mrs Starovoitova.

The shots were fired at the windows of an apartment belonging to Konstantin Serov, 32, who is standing for re-election to the St Petersburg assembly. No one was hurt. (AFP)

EU threatens trade war over Kurd leader

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Union yesterday stepped belatedly into the crisis between Turkey and Italy over Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish separatist leader, to warn Ankara that it would face sanctions if it enforced a boycott of Italian goods.

Jacques Santer, President of

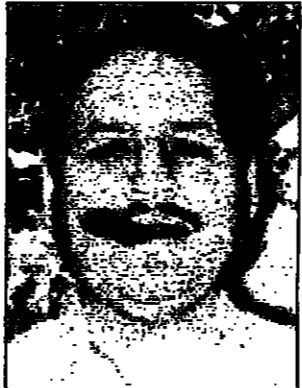
the European Commission, said any Turkish embargo against Italy over its refusal to extradite Mr Ocalan would breach agreements between the EU and Ankara and lead to retaliation.

Mr Santer's words were warmly received by Massimo D'Alema, the Italian Prime Minister. The Turkish authorities have banned the purchase

of Italian goods for public buildings and threatened further sanctions to demonstrate anger over Italy's refusal to extradite the founder of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), who applied for political asylum after being detained in Rome on November 14. Italian judges ruled that Mr Ocalan, who is deemed by Ankara to be a terrorist respon-

sible for the deaths of thousands, could not be sent to a country where he would face the death penalty.

Ankara: Mesut Yilmaz, Turkish Prime Minister, yesterday relented on his insistence that Mr Ocalan be extradited to Turkey and said he might instead be extradited to Germany or sent to a third country. (AFP)



Carlos: vigorous stream of self-publicity

Jackal's jail fast ends 'by order'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

CARLOS the Jackal, the jailed terrorist who has ended a hunger strike after 20 days, insisted yesterday that he was stopping his protest because he was ordered to by a radical Palestinian leader — and not just because he was hungry.

On November 3 Carlos, whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, announced that he was refusing to eat in protest at ill-treatment by guards. Prison doctors accused the convicted guerrilla of faking the hunger strike.

Carlos, 49, became thinner, but remained as self-inflated as ever. Nine days into the protest he began drinking water, and although his lawyers and family claimed he was "near death" he kept up a vigorous stream of self-publicity from his cell at La Santé prison in Paris.

He announced on Monday night that he was ending his action after receiving a letter from Georges Habash, the head of the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. But Carlos's decision to begin eating again coincided with a marked waning of interest in his protest in the French media.

The letter from Mr Habash read: "I shake your hands, full of the hope that you will remain a solid international militant... this requires that you stay alive and in good health to be able to continue the fight for the noble cause that is ours. It is unacceptable for an activist such as you to give up and let himself die."

Carlos's lawyer said that his client had "agreed to the request of Mr Habash, which he considered an order".

But it appears more likely that he decided to end his fast with a face-saving excuse because he was no longer getting the attention — and food — he desired.

He is serving a life sentence for killing two French agents, and is under investigation for four more terrorist attacks.

Macedonia force to watch over monitors in Kosovo

FROM TOM WALKER IN SKOPJE

INTERNATIONAL monitors negotiated the release of a Serb policeman captured by the Kosovo Liberation Army yesterday as Nato put the finishing touches to plans for a 1,800-strong "extraction force" in neighbouring Macedonia. It is designed to spring into action were a monitor to be taken hostage in the conflict.

Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, and General Wesley Clarke, the Supreme Commander, will fly to Kumanovo in northeast Macedonia tomorrow to open the Kosovo Verification Command Centre, a military airbase where information from Nato spyplanes over Kosovo will be correlated with that gathered by monitors in the province.

By early next year there should be nearly 2,000 monitors in Kosovo — but in a conflict that most diplomats fear will worsen next spring, there is a good chance that the observers will make tempting hostage targets for Albanians and Serbs.

The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which is running the mission to verify the tenuous ceasefire, gives the monitors five days of training in the ski resort of Brezovica, on the Kosovo side of the Macedonian border. Advice includes what to do if taken hostage.

But ultimately, the verifiers' lives will depend on the ability of the French-led extraction force to leapfrog the mountain-

ous border and drop commandos from helicopters. The OSCE training on Mount Brezovica is being led by Italians. "We had these kind of problems already in Bosnia, and I found this to be the best kind of reaction: no reaction at all," David Pigeant, a police inspector, advised his latest OSCE group. "The most important thing is to be as flat as possible; very, very neutral."

Hundreds of Albanians and Serbs have been abducted and many tortured and killed. Yesterday, Goran Zilic, a policeman, was handed over to international monitors near the village of Lapastica, 30 miles north of Pristina — an act of charity in a Balkan saga of vengeance.

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US questions merits of hard line on Cuba

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

THE White House is considering a proposal that some experts say is the first serious effort to re-examine American relations with Cuba for almost two decades.

The idea, backed by Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State, is to create a bipartisan commission to review US policy towards the Communist-run island. It was expected to be brought up yesterday during a meeting between Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, and the three Cuban American members of Congress, who strongly oppose lifting the 35-year-old US economic embargo against the Havana regime.

The plan was proposed a month ago when the White House received a letter signed by 12 Republican members of Congress, saying it was time to examine how effective the embargo had been. Their call was backed by several senior former Republican administration officials, including three former Secretaries of State — Dr Kissinger, George Shultz and Lawrence Eagleburger.

"More and more Americans are becoming concerned about the far-reaching effects of our policy on US interests and the Cuban people," the authors wrote. Although no decision

has been made to go ahead with the commission, American officials say that it is being carefully studied.

"We are giving every consideration to this proposal," said a State Department official. "Before reaching its decision, the Administration will consider several issues, such as the composition and mandate of the commission and, in view of Fidel's [Castro's] unwillingness to undertake any internal reform, how much a commission may promote the goal that we share of protecting human rights and a transition to democracy in Cuba."

The proposal has been welcomed by some moderates in Miami's Cuban American community, who have been pushing for a change in policy. "This is the best chance the US has right now to redefine US-Cuba policy," said Damien Fernández, a leading Cuban scholar at Florida International University. "I think there's a momentum and there's enough interest in the Administration for this to happen. They are really pushing."

Experts say that the commission provides the Clinton Administration with a convenient mechanism to get around the current US law on Cuba, dictated by the so-called Helms-

Burton Act, passed two years ago, which tightened the embargo and extended it to undermine non-US investments in Cuba.

But some Cuban American hardliners complain that the commission is unnecessary because US-Cuban policy is the product of a bipartisan agreement between Democrats and Republicans in Congress.

They say the commission idea is tainted by hidden financial and commercial interests of those backing it — some of whom have expressed interest in doing business in Cuba.

Meanwhile, Juanita Castro, 65, President Castro's sister, says she is considering writing her own history of the family — once prominent sugar growers on the Caribbean island. She says it would counter the release of a memoir by Alina Fernández — Castro's daughter born out of wedlock — that depicts her father as a thief.

"It would be the ideal way to respond to the atrocities and lies in this book and many others that have offended us deeply," she said. "I can understand and accept what some of those authors have put in their books. They don't realise they are harming a whole family who are not at fault for what Fidel has done."



Juanita Castro, sister of the Cuban President, who says she wants to put her family record straight after her illegitimate niece accused Fidel Castro of being a thief

WORLD IN BRIEF

Sudan to restore multiparty system

Khartoum: Sudan is to reintroduce a multiparty system after a nine-year ban. The decision was taken after the Khartoum parliament approved a Bill on Monday, the state-owned *al-Anbaa* newspaper said.

President Omar el-Bashir, who banned parties, unions and other groups after taking power in a 1989 coup, is due to sign the Bill into law this week. It will become effective on New Year's Day. Earlier, parliament passed a Bill forming a constitutional court as part of the Government's declared plan to restore democracy to the country, gripped by a long civil war between the Muslim north and Christian and animist south. (Reuters)

Cambodia exile returns

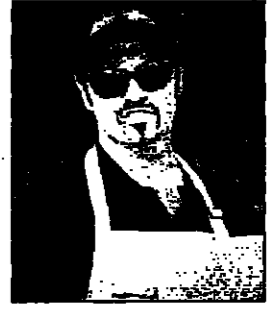
Phnom Penh: Sam Rainsy, Cambodia's lone Opposition leader, returned after two months of self-imposed exile, defying blanket security to pledge continued rejection of Hun Sen's Government. Armed police followed him, preventing scores of well-wishers from staging a demonstration. At one point police motorcyclists used batons to beat back supporters. Sam Rainsy said his return for today's convening of the national assembly did not signal his acceptance of the election results on July 26, which he claimed Hun Sen had won by fraud and intimidation. (AFP)

Gun raid at Paris store

Paris: Masked robbers burst into a Paris department store and shot a passerby in the head when he tried to stop them, gravely wounding him, police said. Three others were seriously injured, two of them having been attacked with gun butts, and at least five were treated for shock. The thieves were chased by a crowd of shoppers, but escaped through the back entrance of the shop with Fr240,000 (about £24,000) from the money-changing office at the Printemps store on the Right Bank. (AP)

Child role for singer

Washington: George Michael, right, will not deliver meals on wheels to Aids patients in Los Angeles — as he had wished — after all (Giles Whittell writes). The British singer, who faces 81 hours of community service for performing a lewd act in a public lavatory, must spend the time encouraging children to do charity work, a Beverly Hills judge has ordered. The singer "came out" as a homosexual after his arrest.



Olympic lawyer quits

Sydney: Rod McGeogh, the businessman who spearheaded Sydney's successful campaign to host the 2000 Olympic Games, has resigned from the organising committee amid allegations that he asked for £3,000 to address a delegation of visiting Americans (Roger Maynard writes). The prominent Sydney lawyer, who is credited with beating off Beijing to host the millennium Olympics, said he was the victim of a "campaign of destabilisation".

Kidnappers condemned

Guadalajara: The Roman Catholic Church in Mexico is to excommunicate kidnappers in a campaign against soaring crime. Cardinal Juan Sandoval Iniguez said. The deal to banish kidnappers would be signed this week by 12 bishops from western Mexico. Kidnappings and other crimes have soared since a devaluation of the peso in 1994 plunged Mexico into recession. (Reuters)

Indian elite dined out on protected game

ANIMAL rights campaigners in India are demanding the prosecution of leading politicians who consumed a lavish dinner of 17 types of meat from some of the country's rarest animals and birds, most of which are supposedly protected by law.

Parliament has been asked to debate the affair, which has focused attention on the parlous state of Indian wildlife. The meal, given in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, included spotted deer, wild boar, Indian bison, sambar (elk), black buck and cheetal (small deer). There were also platters of seagulls, quails, snipes,

Christopher Thomas in Delhi reports on calls to prosecute after wildlife banquet

pelicans and jungle fowls. Some creatures were hunted for the banquet. State machinery was used to aid the slaughter. Meat was also bought at public expense from poachers who specialise in the slaughter of protected animals, making a mockery of government wildlife campaigns.

Andhra Pradesh has some of the richest varieties of wildlife in India, but its forests are plundered by poachers operating almost without interference from the state government. Most exotic birdlife is now extinct in the region because of the unfettered activities of birdcatchers.

There was no particular occasion for holding the banquet: it appears to have been nothing more than a boastful exercise by politicians demonstrating their wealth and power.

G. M. C. Balayogi, Speaker of the

Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament) was among the guests. There have been widespread demands for the Central Bureau of Investigation to prosecute everybody who attended the dinner. But this will never happen because of the collective political power of the diners.

The arrest of Salman Khan, one of the Bollywood film industry's biggest earners, for allegedly hunting endangered animals has also focused attention on the vulnerability of wildlife. He has been released on bail. Several other film stars who hunted with him could also be

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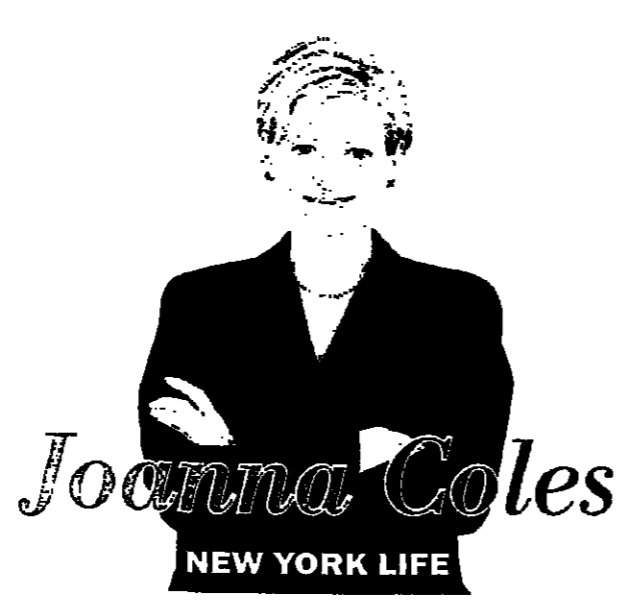
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Never mind the baby, is your stomach flat?

Thursday: Nadia, a pregnant friend, calls to ask if I have heard the one about the woman who pushed too hard while giving birth at Beth Israel Hospital during the summer. This is but the latest of the birthing horror stories I have been plied with since announcing to friends that I was pregnant myself. When it came to her contractions, the woman apparently pushed so hard that the blood vessels in her eyes burst and the whites of her eyes remained bright red pools for a full two months afterwards.

"How awful. Imagine the photos," whispers Nadia, who has already hired a photographer and purchased a Donna Karan silk jacket to wear for her portrait, even though her baby is not due until next April. "They said the woman's eyes looked like gazzacho and she had to wear shades while breast-feeding so as not to scare the baby."

Friday morning: Though I have dismissed Nadia's story as yet another urban pregnancy myth, it has been secretly troubling me, so I raise the subject during my next routine doctor's appointment. "I



read somewhere that if you push too hard during labour, you can actually burst the blood vessels in your eyes." I say casually, trying to imply that I realise this is probably untrue.

"It happens," nods the doctor, equally casually, handing me a glass of glucose to test for gestational diabetes. She looks at me and nods again. "That's why it helps to be prepared. Which classes are you doing?"

"You know, some prenatal exercises at the gym," she stares at me in horror. "You mean you don't have childbirth classes sorted out yet?"

"Well, I've been reading a lot," I say defensively. "Mir-

am Stoppard, Sheila Kitzinger..."

She rattles urgently through her desk and interrupts my roll call of pregnancy literature. "Read this," she says, thrusting a leaflet called *Parent/Family Education* at me. "When you've worked out which one you want to take, call the hospital and tell them you need to sign up at once."

Friday evening: The *Parent/Family Education* leaflet reads like a university curriculum, offering 26 courses, each promising "Small Groups in an Intimate, Nurturing Atmosphere." From Choices in Childbirth ("The discussion will address the legal rights of healthcare consumers and how expectant parents and caregivers can communicate in positive ways.") to Why Lamaze? ("Learn the opportunities available for personal growth and empowerment from the childbirth experience") and A Primer for Parents ("Know when to panic and when not to!"). Unsure which will be most useful, I call the hospital for advice.

"Well, we like you and your partner to take a minimum of 19½ hours' instruc-

tion," says Jo Leonard, the programme administrator. "19½ hours? I thought it would be a couple of evenings."

"Anyway, I'm not sure we can fit you in. I mean some people book their places eight months in advance." I hear her scrolling through dates on her computer. "Full... full... full... All we have left is a weekend course," she says. "All day Saturday and Sunday, January 9/10. It's \$225."

"Panicked, I sign up."

"Oh, and tell me," she asks, "are you high risk?"

"Well, officially I suppose yes, I'm 36."

"Oh, we don't consider that high risk," she says with a laugh. "We just had a mother who was 58."

Saturday morning: Nadia calls again. "Have you heard about outpouchings?" she asks this time. I admit I have not. "They're bits of your stomach that start to poke through your abdomen after you've given birth," she says. "And what about diastasis?"

No, I haven't heard of that either. "Well, listen to this," she says, reading aloud from an article she has just found

in *Harpers Bazaar*. "With diastasis, muscles can split apart, like a broken zipper. Women with extreme diastasis may have to wear stomach binders after delivery to hold in their internal organs."

Monday morning: Nadia's problems really worked in labour. Understanding how to push with a strengthened transverse muscle while relaxing the pelvic floor muscle gave me that mind-body connection. I am also pleased to report that I did not have an episiotomy (a surgical cut to enlarge the vaginal outlet, performed in 90 per cent of first births), she adds proudly.

Maternal Fitness claims to be the "missing link in childbirth education" and is taught by "registered nurses who are also certified personal trainers."

With a heady 1,000 exercises a day, the course is further extolled in *Glamour*, *American Fitness* and *American Baby*, promising to reduce labour time and help your stomach muscles to "snap back" afterwards. In Manhattan, where a new mother is judged less by her breast-feeding skills than by how fast she regains her figure, who could resist?

Thursday evening: The first of our six classes is to take place at the New York Sports Club, a barn-like gym on 37th Street and Fifth Avenue. Male partners are requested to attend and I am accompanied by a grumbling Peter.

Kimberley, our teacher, a bright-eyed, blonde cheerleader type, wearing a lilac University of Kansas sweatshirt, has us sit on blue gym mats in a row. She passes round a leaflet entitled *BAKS: Breathing, Abdominals, Kegels and Squatting*. Underneath the word Kegels is an illustration of a woman with her hair sticking up in terror and her intestines falling out. The picture is captioned "The Result of Not Doing Kegels."

The other couples look rather solemn and several produce notebooks as Kimberley addresses the men. "Boys, you may wonder why we ask you to come for the first two sessions," she says brightly.

I intercept Peter exchanging muzzled glances of agreement with the man next to him.

"Well, your role is very important. Congratulations - you are now paid-up members of the foetus police."

When Camilla took me to task

Rory Bremner, Britain's leading satirist, has become a court jester to the Prince of Wales. At the Prince's 50th birthday party at Highgrove, he launched into a version of a Dr Dolittle song, reworked as *If I Could Talk To The Vegetables*, confident that he would not offend his royal host.

"I do have an affection and regard for Prince Charles," says the 37-year-old comic. "But there is a certain licence. The Prince took it very well. He was relaxed and among friends."

Bremner's presence at this exclusive event confirms that he has been absorbed into the very establishment circles he targets in his biting comedy impressions. As well as being part of Prince Charles's favourites, he lunches regularly with top political figures and is in demand for society gatherings such as *Tatler's* Little Black Book Party for eligible singles, where he met his girlfriend.

Bremner, raised in Edinburgh and educated at Wellington and King's College London, is aware of the dichotomy. He says of the public figures whom he lampoons one day and shares canapés with the next: "They know what I do, and I have to do it without fear or favour. I do feel drawn into a circle but I reserve the right to criticise."

Bremner's act went down so well with Prince Charles and his guests that he is considering giving television audiences a taste of it later in his current Channel 4 series *Rory Bremner... Who Else?* A recent edition featured a spoof Jerry Springer show entitled *Let Di-Gones be Bygones*, which culminated in the Queen giving Camilla Parker Bowles a drubbing with her handbag.

His new CD/cassette *Beware of Imitations* includes a Camilla sketch in which he points out that no one knows what she sounds like, and then produces a gruff navy's voice. Mrs Parker Bowles gave her verdict of his representation of her when she collared him at the party.

"She took me to task," Bremner says. "She said: 'I think you need to work a bit on the voice.' She obviously knew I was doing impressions of her. She does have a deepish voice and is absolutely charming."

"On my CD I do the voice-mail for Buckingham Palace: 'If you want to marry Charles, dial 1 now.'"

Bremner arrived at the

Rory Bremner's presence at the Prince of Wales's 50th birthday party confirms that he has been absorbed into the very establishment circles he targets. Interview by Moira Petty



"They know what I do and I do it without fear or favour. I reserve the right to criticise"

Prince's Gloucestershire home in the afternoon to run through his act with Stephen Fry, who was compering. Later he returned in evening dress with his girlfriend, Zoe Appleyard. "It was great fun to be a fly on the wall at a gathering like that."

"It was the first time anyone had said to me, 'Rory, have you met the King of Greece?' It was worth the petrol money just for that. I asked if I could see his Marbles. He turned

out to be a big fan of the show. "At dinner, Charles sat between the Queen of Spain and the Queen of Norway. It was like a dockyard for Siena liners. It was great fun. The royals are far more human than people give them credit for. When the *gratin dauphinois* are down - I would hesitate to say chips - they're not bad people."

On his CD, Bremner controversially makes a reference to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, without naming her. In the item, the Queen is reflecting on "the great loss to the country" and how crowds would gather to greet "her" and wave goodbye. A hush descended on the Edinburgh audience for the live recording, then "the Queen" added: "When we gathered to say goodbye, I turned to my husband and said 'we're going to miss that yacht, you know.'"

Bremner defends himself: "As long as it's funny, it's not

in bad taste. Laughter takes the sting out of it. The danger is that you go further for the sake of it and get into areas which are gratuitous and vindictive. Towards its end, *Spitting Image* degenerated into a kind of graffiti."

The Springer sketch, in which Charles introduced "my grocer, Mohamed", whose bleated-out swearing was rivalled by the Queen's, attracted criticism. "People write in complaining. But asking me never to swear in the show is like asking an artist to paint without the colour blue."

Bremner describes his CD as "a thermometer gauging the pulse of new Britain". With his co-performers and writers, John Bird and John Fortune, he lunches with opinion-formers and politicians, often cold-calling them first.

"These lunches are not intended to pin people down. We ring them out of the blue and they're surprisingly flattered."

The day after the Prince of Wales's party, Bremner and the two Johns lunched with Tony Benn, who had much to say about New Labour's world of papers and MPs "on message". "He said he felt less like an MP and more like an Avon lady. Nearly every day he gets a fax from Millbank saying something like 'Mr Benn applauds the policy on...' and he is expected to turn it round and fax it off to the *Derbyshire Times*."

A new Government has given him a fresh range of personalities to play with. He has been working on Tony Blair since he took over as leader of the Labour Party from John Smith. "He wears his sincerity on his cuff links. I parody him but I don't find him insincere."

His celebrity characters fall into two groups. "There are those I have a fondness for and those I want to take a line on for a policy or point of view, such as Robin Cook. Personal lives don't interest me but his was handled so appallingly. 'I look forward to spending the rest of my life with the woman I love...' who does he think he is, Edward VIII?"

Bremner's own marriage, to the artist and teacher Susie Davies, ended in 1994 after eight years. He blames his workload, which kept him in London while his wife lived in Hampshire. "Divorce is some-

thing you never quite get over. I want to give what I can to various charities as a way of proving that I am not actually a bad person. Perhaps I take on too many things to help friends out."

In 1997 he met Zoe Appleyard, then 24 and an investment banker with Merrill Lynch. "There was a chemistry. I like people with intelligence. Good looks matter but attraction is not a logical thing."

He says he is "happy and grounded at the moment" and enjoys living alone. Work is his priority. "I throw myself into work to get over the di-

vorce. I used to say to Susie: 'If you want to know what's in my head, look at my desk. If it's in a mess and I am behind with work, I'm unhappy.' My work is so much more significant than my emotional life."

● *Rory Bremner's CD/cassette Beware of Imitations is released on the Laughing Stock label on Monday. The same day, from 5.30 to 6.30pm, he will be signing copies at Politics Bookshop, 8 Artillery Row, Westminster.*

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 24: The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh... Her Majesty and His Royal Highness drove in a Carriage Procession... The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus, World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF International...



Audrey Baker, a florist, takes a professional look at some of the blooms at the Westminster flower show yesterday

Exotic plants keep autumn chills away

By ALAN TOOGOOD HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT AUTUMN flowering trees and shrubs have given way to exotic plants at the Royal Horticultural Society's flower show... The competition of the Orchid Society of Great Britain is providing further exotic interest at this show...

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.S. Allen and Miss L.M.E. Johnston The engagement is announced between Douglas, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Allen, of Woodgreen, Co Antrim, and Linda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ernest Johnston, of Broughshane, Co Antrim... Mr J.T. Craven and Miss E.P.J. Horsey The engagement is announced between James, eldest son of Sir Thomas Craven, of Chelsea, London, and Emma, elder daughter of Major General Mrs Andrew Horsey, of Sherborne, Dorset...

Birthdays today

Sir John Drummond, writer and broadcaster, 64; Sir Cosmo Haskins, former Governor, Falkland Islands, 82; Mr Dickie Jeeps, former chairman, Sports Council, 67; Mr Imran Khan, cricketer, 46; Dr Elizabeth Laverick, electrical engineer, 73; Lord McConnell, 76; Sir Fergus Montgomery, former MP, 71; Lord Nuseby, 62; Lord Richardson of Dunisbourne, KG, 88; Mr Richard Seifert, architect, 83; Mr L.P.L. Shurman, former Banking Ombudsman, 68; Lord Weatherill, 78; Sir Peter Wright, former director, Birmingham Royal Ballet, 72.

Prior's Field School, Godalming

The Governors of Prior's Field School announce the appointment of Mrs Jenny Dwyer to succeed Mrs Jenny McCall as headmistress in September 1999. Mrs Dwyer is currently a Deputy Head at Queen Anne's School, Caversham, and was formerly a housemistress at Benenden School.

Service luncheon

RASC and RCT Officers Luncheon Club General Sir Sam Cowan was the principal guest at a luncheon of the Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Corps of Transport Officers Luncheon Club held yesterday at Mark Masons Hall, St James's, Brigadier D.N. Locke, chairman, presided.

Receptions

Baroness Jay of Paddington The Lady Mayoress was a speaker at a Tallows Chandlers' Company luncheon held yesterday at Tallows Chandlers' Hall. During the luncheon Mr Bobby Nicolle, Master, presented the Tallows Chandlers' medals and awards to BP apprentices and young researchers. Mr Peter Sutherland, Chairman of BP, also spoke.

Service reception

Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme Field Marshal Lord Inge, Constable of HM Tower of London, with Sir Neil Thomas, Chairman of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme, received the guests at a reception held last night at HM Tower of London. The Speaker, the Secretary of State for Defence and members of both Houses of Parliament were among those present.

Lecture

English Speaking Union Lord Hurd of Westwell, CH, delivered the English-Speaking Union's 1998 Churchill Lecture at Guildhall last night. Baroness Briggscock, chairman, presided and Lord Tugendhat also spoke.

Church news

The Ven Anthony Charles Footitt, Archdeacon of Lynn, has been appointed to the Suffragan See of Lynn in the Norwich Diocese in succession to the Right Rev David John Conner on his appointment as Dean of Windsor.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Lope de Vega, dramatist, Madrid, 1562; Catherine of Braganza, Queen Consort of Charles II, Vila Rica, Minas, Portugal, 1638; Charles Kemble, actor-manager, Brecon, 1775; Joseph Lancaster, educator, London, 1778; Andrew Carnegie, iron and steel manufacturer and philanthropist, Dunfermline, 1835; Karl Benz, pioneer of the motor car, Karlsruhe, Germany, 1844; Angelo Roncalli, Pope John XXIII, 1958-63; Sotio il Monte, 1881; Nikolai Vavilov, plant geneticist, Moscow, 1887.

DEATHS

John Mayenberg of St Louis, Missouri, patented evaporated milk, 1884. Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap opened at the Ambassadors Theatre, London, 1928.

Memorial services

Dame Catherine and Mr Tom Cookson The Lord-Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear was represented by Colonel Hugh Elliot at a memorial service for the lives of Dame Catherine and Mr Tom Cookson held yesterday in the Cathedral Church of St Mary, Newcastle upon Tyne. The Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle officiated, assisted by Canon Frank Dexter, Vicar of St George's, Jesmond, Father Ian Jackson, the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Tyne Dock, and Father Tom Power. Mr Anthony Shell read the lesson and Ms Val McLane and Mr Ray Stevenson read from the works of Catherine Cookson. Dr David Harle, Mr Mike Neville and Mr Paul Scherz gave addresses.

Mr Ralph Hammond

Innes A service of thanksgiving and celebration for the life of Mr Ralph Hammond Innes, author, was held yesterday at St Bride's, Fleet Street. Canon John Oates officiated. Rear-Admiral John Lang read the lesson and Miss Ceilia Innes read from The Tempest by William Shakespeare. Mr Mark Le Fanu, General Secretary of the Society of Authors, Mrs Annie Spawton and Mr John Hamilton, Chairman of the Association of Sea Training Organisations, paid tribute.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen, as patron, will attend a reception for Cottage Homes at St James's Palace, at 12.30. The Duke of Edinburgh, as Colonel, will visit the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, Elizabeth Barracks, Pirbright, Surrey, at 11.15. The Princess Royal, patron, Scottish Nationalist Party, will attend the Scottish Nationalist Party Fair at the Perth Agricultural Centre, Crieff Road, Perth, at 9.30; as president, the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will open the Perth and Kinross Carers Centre at The Gateway, North Methven Street, Perth, at 11.40; will visit the Perth and Kinross Carers Centre at The Gateway, North Methven Street, Perth, at 11.40; will visit the Perth and Kinross Carers Centre at The Gateway, North Methven Street, Perth, at 11.40; will visit the Perth and Kinross Carers Centre at The Gateway, North Methven Street, Perth, at 11.40.

Mr Colin Hardie

A memorial service for Mr Colin Graham Hardie, Fellow and Tutor of Magdalen College, Oxford, 1936-72; Emeritus Fellow 1973-88, will be held in the Chapel of Magdalen College, Oxford, on Saturday, January 30, 1999, at 3pm.

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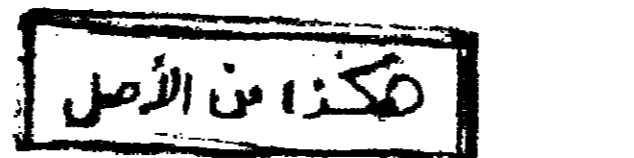
BIRTHS PALMER - On November 22nd 1998 at the Portland Hospital in Chelsea, to Paula (née Condon) and Andrew a son, Sam. A brother for Lauren, Chloe, Poppy, Jo-Jo and Alexander. SNEYTHMAN - On November 19th to Kara (née Binfield), and Matthew, a beautiful daughter. CULLEN - On November 21st 1998 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to a beautiful son, Sean Richard. ECCLESTON - On November 18th to Amanda (née Ball) and Andrew, a daughter, Florence Alice Skana. GRAHAM - On 19th November 1998 in Sophie (née Adair) and a son, Rory William Adair, a brother for Tom. HANSEN - Tomas Hansen and Helen Gray announce the birth of Einar Alexander, 6.28am on 22nd November, 6lb 9/16oz. KORN - On November 8th to Deborah and Simon, a beautiful son, William James, a brother for Robert and Edward. LUFFELADE - On November 11th at the Portland Hospital to Gabrielle and Laurent, a son, Thomas, a brother for Guillaume.

DEATHS BERLIMER - Gertrude Florence (Landy) on Saturday November 21st peacefully aged 98. Widow of Philip. Funeral Service at Kenwood Crematorium Family Chapel, 11.15am, Tuesday December 1st. BOND - Lesley June died peacefully at Fairfield Cottage Hospital, Gloucestershire on Thursday 19th November 1998. Much loved wife of Tony and inspiration to many people. BYRNE - On 22nd November 1998, at peace after a short illness, Thomas Byrne BIDE, NUI, much loved husband of the late Olive, father and grandfather. Requiem Mass at the Church of St. Mary Magdalen, Whiteley, 11.00am on Monday 30th November. GRESHAM - Jean (Lilian Jean) nee Maxwell, wonderful wife to Jack for over 60 years, who was devoted to her sons Peter and Michael and to her five grandchildren. Cremation will take place at Eastbourne Crematorium on Monday 30th November at 10.45am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to any of the following: The International League for the Protection of Horses c/o Seaford Funeral Services, 25 Barton Road, Seaford, BN25 2RTU.

DEATHS CROWNE - Beatrice Helen, November 20th 1998, after a short illness aged 82. Mrs J. E. Crowne, peacefully on November 20th 1998, aged 92. Widow of James. No flowers. Donations to Parkinson's Disease Society. JEFFREYS - Professor David Gwynn passed away at the Conquest Hospital on 23rd November 1998. Funeral service at St. Barnabas Church, Bechill 10.00am Friday 4th December followed by cremation at Eastbourne. Enquiries to Memoriam 77/2 Tel 01424 730411. MACARTNEY - Mary, died peacefully after a short illness at home on November 20th 1998. Funeral service at St. John's Church, Southsea on Monday 12.30pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired to any of the following: The International League for the Protection of Horses c/o Seaford Funeral Services, 25 Barton Road, Seaford, BN25 2RTU. MOORE - On November 19th Barbara Alma MA, MSc, MB, FRCS, died peacefully aged 66. Dear sister of Betty, aunt and great-aunt. Funeral service at St. John's Church, Southsea on Monday 12.30pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired to any of the following: The International League for the Protection of Horses c/o Seaford Funeral Services, 25 Barton Road, Seaford, BN25 2RTU. PARKER - Rupert, Suddenly on 22nd November 1998. Our darling beautiful boy who was so gentle and kind. He was much loved by everyone who knew him. Funeral service will take place at St. John's Church, Southsea on Monday 12.30pm. Family flowers only. Donations for: Royal Marsden Hospital Charity c/o Lyfing Funeral Services, 25 Seaford Road, Guildford Surrey, GU2 5NT, Tel:01483 567532. THOMPSON - Ralph Noel aged 85 died peacefully on Saturday 21st November 1998. Beloved husband of Elizabeth for 61 years. Much loved father of David and Roger. Cremation at Rendalls Park Crematorium, London on Friday 27th November at 11.00am. Family flowers only, donations to Salvation Army, Enquiries to: Andrew Holmes & Son on 0181-391 2400.

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THE TIMES OBITUARIES PROFESSOR PERS... 0171 663 44... 0171 481 9313



OBITUARIES

SIR KENNETH OXFORD

Sir Kenneth Oxford, CBE, QPM, former Chief Constable of Merseyside, died on November 25 aged 74. He was born on June 25, 1924.

down in relations between police and community at the time of the 1981 Toxteth riots.

Throughout his forty-year career, whether as a promising young detective with the Metropolitan Police or as Chief Constable of Merseyside, Kenneth Oxford was driven by a deeply held conviction that the effects of crime go beyond its immediate victims and strike at the heart of civil society.

Kenneth Gordon Oxford was born in Lambeth, South London, and educated locally at Caldecot School. His mother died when he was seven, and he was brought up by his elder brother and his father, a hospital maintenance engineer.

With his fundamentalist approach to law and order, he was something of a policeman's policeman. He set high standards for himself and for his officers, and was intolerant of indiscipline or misconduct within his force.

Prominent among the investigations with which he was involved was that into the notorious A6 murder of August 1961. The case led to the conviction, after what was then Britain's longest ever murder trial, of James Hanratty, a naive and semi-literate petty crook who was hanged, still protesting his innocence, on April 4, 1962.

Such attitudes, and a willingness to give them forthright expression, turned him in the 1970s and 1980s (along with his Manchester counterpart James Anderton) into a hero among Young Conservatives, and something of a bogeyman to most shades of liberal opinion.

In 1974 he was appointed Deputy Chief Constable of Merseyside Police; two years later he became Chief Constable. At Northumbria he had already shown a tendency to outspokenness, provoking questions in the House of Commons on one occasion in 1972 with his remarks about "the chicanery that goes on in the legal profession" and his complaints at a criminal justice system in which "the dice are loaded against the forces of law and order".



Oxford: very much a policeman's policeman with his fundamentalist approach to law and order

In 1969 he left London to take up the post of Assistant Chief Constable (Crime) with the Northumbria Constabulary, subsequently Northumbria Police. Soon after taking up his new post he conducted an investigation prompted by the widespread disorder which accompanied a British tour by the South African Springboks rugby team.

On Merseyside he continued in similar vein. He took charge there at a time when crime was not only increasing but changing. The drugs trade, especially, was a new and fast-growing menace, but there was also an alarming 45.8 per cent increase in recorded woundings and assaults between 1976 and

1981, many of them perpetrated on infirm or elderly victims. But if the offences and the victims were new, the attitudes and policing methods which Oxford attempted to apply were those in which he had always believed. He was dismissive of the influence of factors such as unemployment or poor housing in promoting crime.

around the time he moved to Merseyside. Instead, as he later admitted, he was forced to rely on men in their mid-twenties or younger who, for the first time in their lives, found themselves in a position of uniformed authority over their peers.

district was subsequently the scene of an early experiment in "community policing", a return to the old principle of the man on the beat, with the aim of establishing "a better dialogue with the people".

Oxford was firm in blaming the ensuing "uncivilised rampage" on a lack of proper parental supervision. If families were not prepared to stop their children behaving like "thieves and vagabonds", he was ready to do so himself.

Awarded the Queen's Police Medal in 1977 and appointed CBE in 1981, Oxford found his later years at Liverpool somewhat blighted by a deterioration in his already poor relations with the police committee, with whom he was involved in endless wrangles over expenditure and accountability, especially in the aftermath of the miners' strike of 1984-85.

In policing a volatile urban environment on the basis of such views, he found himself hampered by a lack of mature and experienced officers, many of whom had left the force over pay and conditions at

Knighted in 1988, he was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Merseyside. Later that year he presided at a series of disciplinary hearings against members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary arising out of the investigations conducted by the then Deputy Chief Constable of Manchester, John Stalker.

PROFESSOR STUART SUTHERLAND

Professor Stuart Sutherland, psychologist, died on November 8 aged 71. He was born on March 26, 1927.



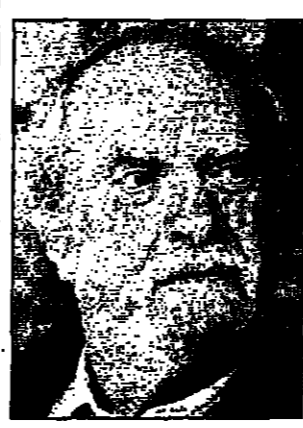
If Stuart Sutherland's life had not been disrupted by a mental breakdown, he might have made an even greater mark as an experimental psychologist. As it was, he was important for his work in setting up the experimental psychology laboratory at Sussex University, and in inspiring younger psychologists to meet his demands for rigorous, computable theories.

land and his former student N. J. Mackintosh published in 1971, was a major contribution to the study of learning and visual discrimination. When Sussex University was being established, its second Vice-Chancellor, Asa Briggs, persuaded Sutherland to take the first chair of experimental psychology. From 1965 Sutherland rapidly assembled in Sussex the most exciting group of young researchers in the country.

Simon Gray transformed *Breakdown* into the memorable play *Melon*, which ran in the West End and on Broadway. When someone proposed that the central role be played by Robert Morley, who resembled Sutherland in appearance, the reaction was comical: "He's not good-looking enough to play me. It should be Alan Bates." And Alan Bates it was.

Sutherland's breakdown ended most of his serious scientific research, but not his other academic activities. He never ceased to write, contributing to *The Times Literary Supplement* and other papers. Covering a huge range of fields, his articles were always pointed and provocative, and often amusing. In 1987 he published a novel, *Men Change Too*.

JAMES GOLDMAN



James Goldman, playwright and screenwriter, died on October 28 aged 71. He was born on June 27, 1927.



Follies in London, 1987: Sondheim stood by Goldman's book, despite the critics

A versatile writer who liked to experiment for comic effect with different forms, periods and styles — sometimes all at once — James Goldman made his biggest splash with the libretto for Stephen Sondheim's *Follies* and his screenplay *The Lion in Winter*, which won him an Oscar.

Ten years later, the film of the play, directed by Anthony Harvey with the zanyness restored and the portentousness cut, starred George C. Scott and Joanne Woodward, and was better received, though even then the ending was an abrupt enigma.

Here and *Losing My Mind*, it won the New York Drama Critics Circle award for Best Musical, as well as Best Actress in a Musical (Alexis Smith) and Best Director (shared by Harold Prince and Michael Bennett). Sondheim himself won the second of three consecutive awards as composer (the others being for *Company* and *A Little Night Music*).

London at Leatherhead in 1969. In 1987 a revival of *Follies* opened in London, starring Diana Rigg and Julia McKenzie in parts that had been considerably filled out for the occasion. Although the original musical had taken five years to write, Goldman's book had been much criticised in reviews of the original show.

PERSONAL COLUMN

FLATSHARE, FLIGHTS DIRECTORY, DELTA WORLDWIDE

GREAT DEALS, FARESAVERS, CHARTER DEPARTS, JETLINE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, WE OWE A LOT TO OUR SOLDIERS, THE CURE OF CONSUMPTION, ON THIS DAY

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

NEWS

Lords becomes the battlefield

The future of the Lords became the bitter battlefield for the next political year as tensions erupted in both Houses of Parliament over the Government's plan to strip 750 hereditary peers of their historic voting rights.

Hague accused of gutter politics

Peter Mandelson's advisers accused William Hague of entering the gutter after the Tory leader used the opening of the Parliamentary session to make a veiled reference to allegations about the Trade Secretary's private life.

Major under fire

Major Eric Joyce, who has been in dispute with the Army since publishing a controversial pamphlet criticising the "elite", is to be told to resign or face "administrative discharge".

Plea for condoms

Condoms should be as available as Coca-Cola to defeat the continuing rise of HIV among young people, said Clare Short, the International Development Secretary.

Prince accused

Allegations of outrageous behaviour towards servants in a Cairo hotel by a big-spending Saudi prince are threatening a diplomatic crisis between Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Student revolt

One of Tony Blair's leading academic advisers faced a student revolt after proposing a 30 per cent rise in fees at the London School of Economics.

Playboy choice

To be really sexy in the eyes of Playboy a woman needs two vital attributes. She should be blonde and she should be deceased.

Trust fined £10,000

The Prince's Trust was fined £10,000 after admitting responsibility for the deaths of two volunteers who were killed when a concrete wall collapsed on top of them.

Joyce's house

A childhood home of James Joyce has been flattened to make way for an apartment block despite an order to preserve its facade.

45 mph cyclist

A cyclist caught doing 45 mph just a foot from the rear of a lorry was fined £35 for riding without due care and attention.

Car breaks down feet from victory

Carlos Sainz pursued the World Rally Championship for almost 15,000 miles across the sand, mud and gravel of five continents. He was 300 metres from triumph when the engine of his car burst into flames.



A veteran of the Second World War in traditional Cretan dress greets the Prince of Wales during his visit to Greece yesterday.

RADIO & TV

Preview: Becky Sharp gets a modern spin. Omnibus: The Whirl of Vanity Fair (BBC1, 10.45pm).

OPINION

Unhappy interests

When politicians take on vested interests, they always lose friends. But that is what governing is all about.

Art for their own sakes

To bring the Marbles to Athens is an ambition with no basis in law, justice or likelihood.

Freedom and fire

Dulwich College would now be wise to invite a mainstream speaker to make the case for colour-blind policies.

SIMON JENKINS

Constitutional reform is stalled as the Cabinet conducts its petty squabble with the Lords. The praetorian guard of British government may lose an occasional skirmish to the ragged forces of democracy.

JAMES FENTON

The problem was not that the Oxford poetry list was not making money. It just wasn't making a hummingous sum.

ALAN COREN

Did your heart not leap up at yesterday's news that Millennium Voyager had, at the firm poke of Mr Chris Smith's button-finger, been launched from Cape Whitehall and sent into an eight-month orbit round the outer space which is regional Britain?

PETER RIDDELL

The House of Lords will never be properly reformed until, the party leaders start thinking seriously, rather than merely exchanging vacuum slogans.

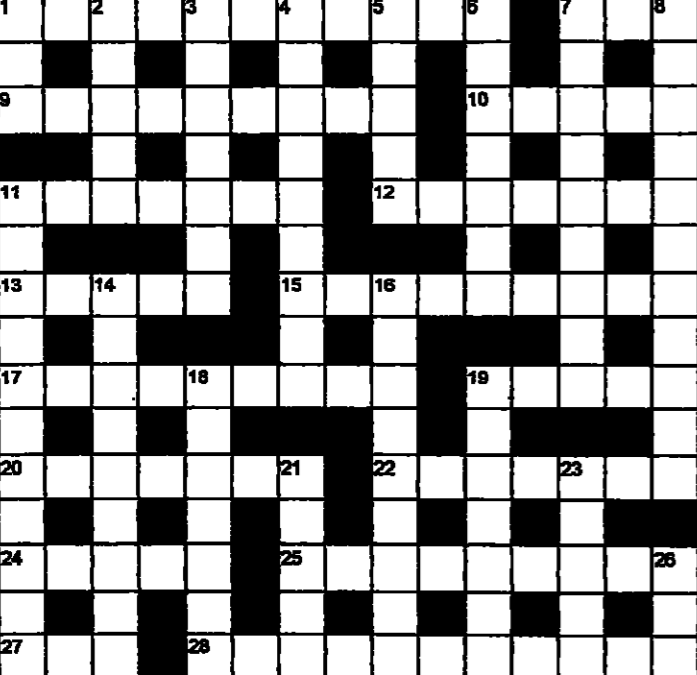
Sir Kenneth Oxford, former Chief Constable; Professor Stuart Sutherland, psychologist; James Goldman, author

Iraq: EMU; poetry; debt relief; Newbury bypass; CPS decisions; British National Party.

Business, Sports, Arts, and Features sections including articles on FSA Bill, Cricket, Video vision, Party act, Fetal position, Alien life, Green light, Grass act, and In a period of deepening economic hardship.

Tomorrow section with film and book reviews, including 'George Clooney tries again for his cinema breakthrough' and 'Erica Wagner looks at America through Simone de Beauvoir's eyes'.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,958



ACROSS and DOWN clues for the crossword puzzle, including 'Get in front of the male to avoid responsibility (4,3,4)', 'Doctor welcomes a break (3)', and 'What's in bankroll? (5)'.

AA Information section including latest road and weather conditions for various UK regions and motoring information.

Hours of Darkness section providing sunrise and sunset times for various locations across the UK.

News Papers Support Recycling section with a tree logo and information about the environmental benefits of recycling newspaper.

Forecast section providing a general weather outlook for England and Wales, including temperature ranges and precipitation chances.

Around Britain section showing weather forecasts for various locations across the British Isles, including Aberdeen, London, and Cardiff.

Abroad section providing weather forecasts for various international cities such as Cologne, Madrid, Moscow, and Tokyo.

MOON TODAY section featuring a diagram of the moon's phases and a weather map showing high and low pressure systems.

High Tides section providing a detailed table of high tide times for various coastal locations around the UK.

Highest & Lowest section providing a table of the highest and lowest temperatures recorded in various locations.

RNLI Rescue Update - 25 November section reporting on the total number of lives saved and launches so far this year, including contact information for donations.

M&S advertisement for Lifeboats, featuring a lifeboat image and promotional text for the 'New Year' sale.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'INSIDE SECTION', '2 TODAY', 'New mea Labo', 'Southgate struggles to dismiss rumours of EMI takeover', and 'Ec sni'.

THE TIMES

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



ECONOMICS Janet Bush says US has no excuse for a recession PAGE 31



ARTS Move over, video: tomorrow's hi-tech fashion is here PAGES 39-42



SPORT Newcastle put their faith in Ferguson PAGES 44-52

TELEVISION AND RADIO Pages 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25 1998

New measures in Queen's Speech follow opposition to watchdog's power

Labour seeks to protect FSA

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY GROWING opposition to the controversial new powers proposed for the Financial Services Authority, the City's super-watchdog, has forced the Government to take unprecedented steps to ensure its safe passage through Parliament.

The Queen's Speech yesterday unveiled two revolutionary new measures to safeguard the passage of the Bill, which will establish the FSA as the most powerful financial regulator in the Western world.

The draft Bill has been widely criticised for proposing to give the FSA wide and sweeping powers but failing to make it fully accountable. Senior City figures are concerned that the proposed legislation gives the new regulator too much power, and does not insist on a proper separation of its roles as investigator of market abuse, prosecutor of rule-breakers, and disciplinary tribunal.

As a consequence, Margaret Beckett, Leader of the Commons, will set up a cross-party committee drawn from both Houses to examine the Financial Services and Markets Bill before it reaches the Commons. This should ensure many of the more contentious proposals are agreed on before the Bill is put before MPs.

The Government also gave notice that if the Bill runs out of time at the end of the second session of Parliament next year, it will seek cross-party approval to carry it over to the third session. This move is only possible because of new procedures introduced under the modernisation of Parliament. Normally a Bill which ran out of time would have to be reintroduced in the next session of Parliament.

The Bill will create a single regulator for the financial services industry, as well as a single ombudsman to handle consumers' complaints. It will also give the FSA new wide-ranging powers to tackle market abuse. Stephen Byers, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said that the joint committee would report around Easter, and then the Bill would begin its parliamentary stages "as soon as possible".

Mr Byers said that the Bill was likely to complete its legislative passage early in 2000. "The establishment of the joint committee and the possible carry-over of the Bill into the third Parliamentary session are historic, and show the importance of this Bill and to getting financial regulation in this country right."

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with stock market indices: FTSE 100, FTSE All Share, Nikkei, Dow Jones, S&P Composite, US Rates, Federal Funds, Long bond, Yield, 3-month interbank, Life long gilt, Future (Dec), New York, London, DM, FF, SF, Yen, £ index, Tokyo close Yen, Brent 15-day (Feb), London close.

CDC SELL-OFF IN THE PIPELINE

THE Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC), the state-owned emerging market investment company, is to be part-privatised in a sell-off expected to value it at up to £500 million (Alistair Murray writes).

The Government said the enabling legislation to convert CDC to a public company will soon be sent to the House of Lords. The Bill is expected to clear Parliament next summer, with the sell-off shortly after.

A minority stake will be retained by the Government. The stake is expected to be about 40 per cent, which cannot be reduced below 25 per cent without fresh Parliamentary approval. The rest of CDC's capital is expected to be offered directly to City institutions.

DIGITAL SIGNATURES GET GO-HEAD

CONSUMERS and businesses will soon be able to use "digital signatures" to buy goods via the Internet, under new legislation announced in the Queen's Speech (Chris Ayres writes).

New laws could also allow people to apply for official documents such as passports and driving licences online. The legislation comes as companies as diverse as Tesco, Dixons and HMV are setting up "virtual shops" on the Internet. The most important legislation that the Government hopes to introduce concerns digital signatures. These are unforgeable computer codes that can be used as proof of identity.

Southgate struggles to dismiss rumours of EMI takeover

BY CHRIS AYRES EMI, the troubled British music group, yesterday attempted to shrug off continued takeover speculation as it reported dismal half-year results, lightened only by resilient profits and sales in North American markets.



Brian Duckworth, managing director of Severn Trent Water, with Beanie the otter. Severn Trent and Wildlife Trusts launched a scheme in Nottinghamshire yesterday as part of a national campaign to encourage otters back to British rivers. Severn Trent also announced £176.5 million interims. Story 28, Tempus 30

Ecclestone's bond snubbed by banks

BY JASON NISSE THE marketing of the \$2 billion (£1.2 billion) eurobond being issued by Bernie Ecclestone's Formula One Group was dealt a blow yesterday when two leading City investment banks declined to join the syndicate backing the deal.

Hinchliffe firm seeks administration order

BY JASON NISSE FEELGOOD LEISURE, the shoe retailer founded only ten months ago by Stephen Hinchliffe, the controversial South Yorkshire businessman, has applied to be placed in administration.

Bovis plan hits shares in Atkins

SHARES in WS Atkins yesterday fell 5 1/2p to 551p on concern that the civil engineering consultancy will need a big share issue to fund its planned acquisition of Bovis, the construction manager, from P&O (Paul Durman writes).



Robbie Williams: EMI star

M&S board called to crisis meeting

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM MARKS & SPENCER has summoned its overseas directors to London for a crisis board meeting called to end the row over who is to run the company.

Cartier advertisement featuring a love bangle and ring. Text includes: Cartier, 175/176 New Bond Street, London W1, Telephone: 0171-408 8700, 188 Sloane Street, London SW1, Telephone: 0171-235 9023, The Fine Jewellery Room and The International Room of Luxury at Harrods, Telephone: 0171-730 1234, Heathrow Terminal 4, Telephone: 0181-745 6724.

Business Roundup
Duffryn to
more slowly

Engineering group...
Duffryn to more slowly

ints on UK costs

plan for Ethical

one improves 17%

sixth advance

charity's stake

un-sealed

progress at Sim

Vibroplan

OFFERS FROM TO

No holding place for M&S



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

For two weeks, Marks & Spencer has assumed a lofty silence about the extraordinary debacle over the leadership of the company. This may have been deemed the most dignified way to deal with a most undignified situation but it cannot be allowed to continue. Today's board meeting must be followed by a statement to the world that exists beyond the upper echelons of Baker Street. Investors and staff need to be reassured that the non-executive directors are earning their fees and sorting out the mess.

Since it became apparent that Sir Richard Greenbury's continued domination of the company was, to put it politely, the cause of internal unrest, rumours have swirled to fill the information vacuum. If the directors feel that they can quell those rumours with a mere holding statement, they are mistaken. A continuation of the status quo cannot be in the best interests of the company or any of its dependants.

The eruption of the succession problem at the top of M&S could hardly have come as a complete surprise to the body of heavyweights who pack the company's boardroom. More than a year ago they tipped around the delicate issue of whether Sir Richard should be allowed to maintain his Cadburyially incorrect stance as both chairman and effective chief executive before diplomatically deciding not to cause offence and to leave Sir Richard's role untouched. But at that stage

they must have begun to make plans as to what arrangement might best serve the evolving needs of the company.

The understandable ambitions of Keith Oates to accede to the top job had percolated through to the City long before they appeared as a job application in the Sunday press. It would not take a non-executive director with the credentials of Dame Stella Rimington to pick up such information.

It is now irrelevant how the job ad. was placed: Mr Oates may have convinced his board that he is blameless in that regard. But it is difficult to see how he and Sir Richard, not renowned for his forgiving nature, might together comprise the team to happily and constructively lead M&S out of its current difficulties. These are not life-threatening, but they do require the full attention of top management. One or other man must surely go and the odds must favour Sir Richard to stay but within a redefined structure.

There is no need, however, for the company to be precipitated into immediately appointing a chief executive; perhaps an organisation with the scale and reach of M&S needs a different top tier. A first stage would be the appointment of a new, non-executive, deputy chairman to

stand between Sir Richard and his executives.

Rumours still favour Sir Christopher Hogg, although he is well occupied elsewhere. Self-appointed headhunters are marauding the ranks of senior retailers to dig out suitable candidates. Lord MacLaurin was not amused when they rang him. If only to put a stop to such mercenary activities, M&S needs to act decisively now.

No business like e-business

Electronic commerce via the Internet must have seemed irresistibly trendy when Peter Mandelson was scurrying around for his department's legislative contribution to modernising Britain. And why not? Any new market, medium or movement needs rules if it is to grow beyond the experimental and reach its full potential.

Private initiatives such as the Secure Electronic Transaction

protocol sponsored by Visa and MasterCard in 1996 can do most of the work, but governments have to help, too.

Once states start enabling other people to do things, however, the danger is that they will fall for the temptation to exercise central control. When bureaucrats eye the Internet, they must be paralysed with worry at the explosively free flow of information they find there. While freedom of information laws hang fire, there is a new freedom of information to clamp down on.

Mr Mandelson does not seem able to resist temptation any better than old-style politicians. The first part of his proposed Bill is an enabling measure that business has been asking for. In future, contracts could be made electronically, substituting an encoded super pin number for a pen and ink signature. You don't have to be a techie to see that secure digital signatures could make a lot of business safer as well as easier. Good marks. Somehow, however, the urge

to control has crept in. The second half of the proposed Bill is liable to be about giving the police and other authorities keys to break the virtually hack-proof codes now routinely used to encrypt banking and other business traffic on the Internet.

The temptation is great. Criminal networking, money laundering or child pornography can as easily be scrambled as the day's money market trades. US laws are already imposing some restrictions on encrypting firms.

If codes become insecure, however, the potential for hackers and swindlers is immense. Nor is it theoretical. Five years ago, Russian hackers lifted £10 million from an international bank. Sadly, copies of codes given to the security services for safe keeping would be guaranteed to leak, let alone, as was suggested, any entrusted to the local post office.

If security were again compromised, use of the Internet would start to shrink again instead of expanding exponentially. Perhaps the DTI understands that be-

cause proposals have deliberately been left vague. Even registration of encrypters might be voluntary. Business will be watching for the detail of an upcoming Green Paper with mixed feelings, as will those who view any unregulated sector as a slash and burn farmer views virgin forest.

In search of the right formula

David Crossland blithely launched his £250 million bond issue on to the market without feeling any need to explain exactly what he intends to do with the money. Suffice to say that he wants to be ready to pick up the bargains he expects to come his way as the holiday industry continues to consolidate, and he reckons this money is much cheaper than equity finance.

Airtours shares shuddered as profit takers had their way, but the chaps at Morgan Stanley could have been forgiven a jealous twinge or two as they witnessed Mr Crossland's easy confidence. They are working flat out to persuade the market that the £2 billion Formula One bond will make the finishing post. Despite a miserable reception from normally receptive syndication

desks, the Morgan Stanley team is not giving up yet. The sales pitch is now being targeted squarely at individual investing institutions, who might be persuaded that the question marks over the future income stream of Formula One can be adequately answered and that even if the EU's cartel-busting Karel Van Miert does his worst, he cannot stop the money flowing, eventually, to the business.

This is the team that managed to raise GPA from the near dead so it is not prepared to give up on the very much alive Formula One yet. But the coupon necessary to attract investors to the issue will have to be generous if it is to succeed. There must come a point when, unlike Mr Crossland, Mr Ecclestone has to ask whether the price is right.

FSA in limbo

AT LEAST one FSA bill is to go ahead. Supermarkets will be relieved not to have to fund the Food Safety Agency, but the Financial Services Authority is an even more problematic organisation. The complications inherent in rolling all regulators into one necessitate an agonisingly long process during which the FSA has responsibility but not power.

The organisations now gathered under its Canary Wharf umbrella will have to muddle through this prolonged period in legislative limbo. The risk is that a major financial mess might slip through the cracks.

Airtours to raise £250m in bond issue

By Sarah Cunningham

AIRTOURS, the travel group, is raising £250 million from a bond issue to invest in further acquisitions in Europe or North America.

The company is already in touch with a number of companies that it might acquire, and has recently been linked with France's Nouvelles Frontières.

Tim Byrne, finance director, said that France, Belgium and Holland were the markets in which it was most likely to invest.

The issue of convertible bonds comes on the back of a strong set of preliminary results that show group pre-tax profit in the year to September 30 up 17 per cent to £140.3 million.

Shares in the company, which invested £210 million on acquisitions last year, fell 25p to 410p yesterday, however, on profit-taking and residual worries about the poor performance last year of its Scandinavian business.

The problems in Scandinavia led to its continental European operating profits falling

from £38.5 million to £16.3 million. Turnover in that division rose from £834.5 million to £848.1 million.

Mr Byrne said that overcapacity had been stripped out of the Scandinavian business. Trade had already picked up by the fourth quarter and in the first few weeks of the current year was 17 per cent ahead.

In the UK, winter bookings are up by 6 per cent, while for the summer they are 5 per cent ahead of last year. Supply of holidays is being kept tight, but the company said that it had seen little sign that the downturn in consumer spending was affecting its business.

The bonds are due in 2004. Their interest rate, expected to be between 5.25 per cent and 5.75 per cent, will be fixed on or before December 15.

On fully diluted earnings per share of 22.98p (19.68p) the company will pay a final dividend of 6p, giving a total for the year of 7.5p.

Tempus, page 30

Cellnet is primed for sales leap

By Raymond Snoddy
Media Editor

CELLNET, the UK's second-largest mobile telephone operator, said yesterday that it expected to sign more than 500,000 subscribers in the current quarter, setting a new quarterly record.

Peter Erskine, managing director, said that the boom in the mobile telephone market continued. He forecast that 12.6 million Britons would have mobile phones by the end of this year, up from 8.4 million at the end of 1997. The total would rise to more than 15 million by the end of 1999.

Mr Erskine, who was appointed earlier this year to revitalise Cellnet, said: "We think the fact that there has been a market boom this year has a lot to do with Cellnet getting back into contention."

Cellnet, jointly owned by BT and Securicor, reported a 19 per cent rise in turnover, to £666 million in the six months to September 30. However, operating profits fell by £8 million, to £98 million, because of the scale of development.

Merger of paper duo to cost jobs

By Carl Mortished
International Business Editor

THOUSANDS of jobs are under threat as two heavyweights in the global paper industry announced plans to combine their businesses in an effort to halt the slide in prices.

International Paper, the largest US player, announced a \$6.6 billion (£3.97 billion) merger with rival Union Camp. Only hours earlier, Smurfit Stone Container Corporation revealed plans to shut down almost a fifth of its mills with the loss of 3,600 jobs.

Smurfit Stone is the creation of last year's takeover of Stone Container by the US arm of Jefferson Smurfit, the Irish packaging group. The quoted US company will take a charge of up to \$350 million in the fourth quarter.

The deals are likely to prompt further consolidation as paper firms seek to position themselves in dreadful markets. International Paper yesterday said the merger with Union Camp would result in \$300 million in cost savings.

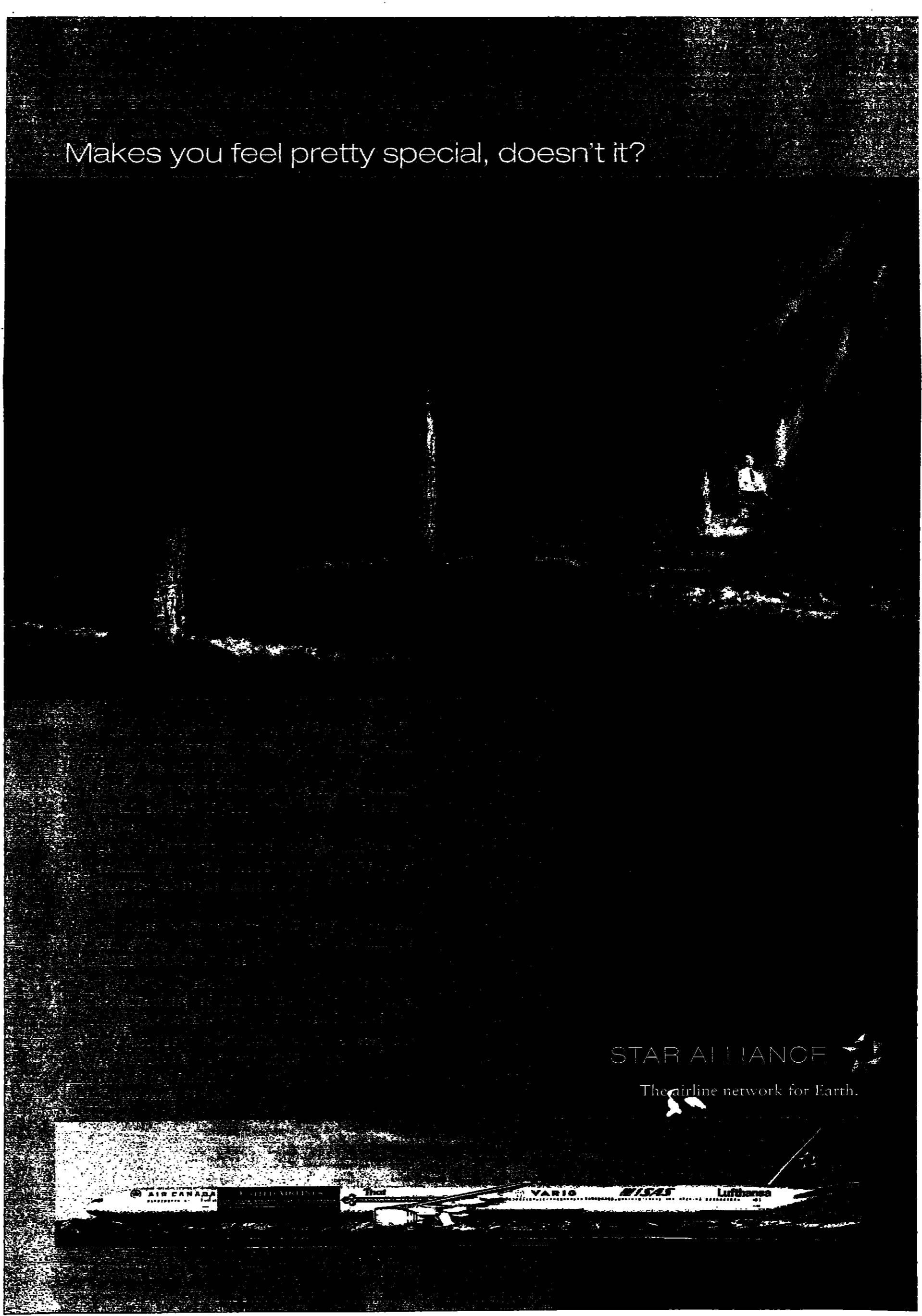
Tomb Raider film to benefit Eidos

EIDOS, the computer games company, yesterday said it expected to receive at least \$30 million (£18 million) of free publicity from the film adaptation of its Tomb Raider title, which features the racy animated heroine Lara Croft (Chris Ayres writes).

The film is expected to be released late next year. However, Charles Cornwall, chief executive, would not disclose

what percentage of box office and merchandising revenues Eidos would receive.

Eidos reported a slightly increased pre-tax loss for the six months to September 30 of £18.9 million, including unexpected marketing costs of £1.9 million. Sales rose 118 per cent from £22 million to £47.6 million, while losses per share deepened from 70.5p to 80.6p. No dividend will be paid.



DAY NOVEMBER 25 1998 US of spice... its pop music... especially now... the Spice Girls... have seen one... member... four... EMI... find a... EMI... a sell...

US nerve returns with a vengeance

So, the Dow Jones industrial average is back at a record high, closing at 9,374.27 on what is being dubbed Manic Monday. In one of the most spectacular rallies in Wall Street history, the Dow has jumped 26 per cent since its low of 7,400 in the darkly ominous days of late August after Russia's default and devaluation. Abby Joseph Cohen, Goldman Sachs's super bull, so roundly vilified over the past few months, has been vindicated.

corporate profits in the third quarter to stand 6.2 per cent lower than a year ago. This is the largest year-on-year decline since 1989. The sceptics' instinct is, quite simply, that it is not rational — in fact it is irrational exuberance — for stocks to jump to record highs when the world economy has undergone a huge and unexpected shock and when large parts of the world remain in deep recession and there remain risks of after-shocks. Could economic Armageddon so easily have been headed off by the mere fact of a 75 basis points cut in American interest rates? Probably not, and the great danger of the current moment is that the Fed looks at Wall Street and stops cutting. It is the Fed's willingness to act decisively in easing monetary policy that has led to

such a swift restoration in confidence and it needs to keep expectations of lower interest rates alive. The overwhelmingly redeeming feature of the current situation is that, if good sense prevails, the Fed has absolute freedom to go on easing because there is no inflation about. And, if that did not prove enough, the Administration, in the extraordinarily unusual position of running a budget surplus, is free to loosen fiscal policy. With both the tools of demand management available, there is no possible excuse for a recession. As Rudi Dornbusch of MIT said in July: "For policymakers living without inflation and with budget surpluses, a recession is just an unforgivable mistake." As long as the big policy picture is right, the rest is up to companies



and consumers. The Goldlocks economy was based on a virtuous circle in which stock market appreciation encouraged corporate America to invest furiously. Productivity gains fuelled earnings. Earnings pushed the stock market and so on. The question of whether the stock market can continue rising will depend heavily on the continuation of this behaviour.

Yesterday's US GDP figures, which showed growth revised up to 3.9 per cent in the third quarter from 3.3 per cent estimated previously, contained one worrying aspect. Business investment in new equipment fell 1.1 per cent, this measure's first decline in nearly seven years. However, the third quarter saw a catastrophic decline both in stock values and confidence and, with the market back to its previous peak, investment could easily turn again. This week's wave of mega-mergers is not suggestive of a corporate America on the defensive.

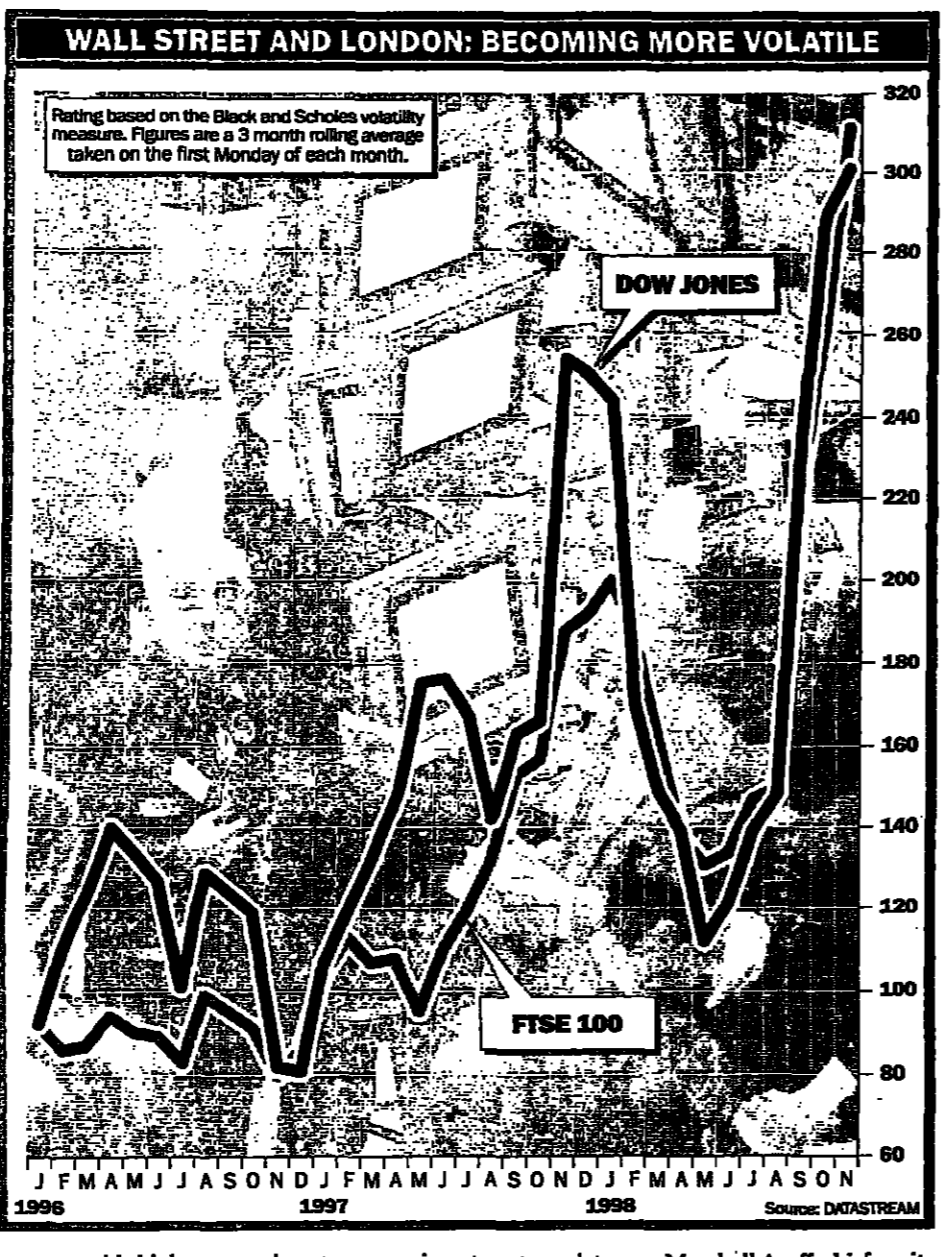
at an annual rate of 4.1 per cent in the third quarter. Consumer spending has been driven by rising stock prices. Household net worth has jumped by 35 per cent since 1994. There is also evidence, as noted by Matthew Wickens, of ABN Amro, that US consumers are financing current spending by taking profits on their equity gains rather than spending their accumulated capital. Mr Wickens argues that, if there were another shock to confidence, some of the spending would cease but saving would not have to rise sharply because accumulated household capital has not been touched.

All this suggests that, with a fair wind, there is no reason for a collapse in the Dow and some good arguments for a continuing appreciation. But do these arguments apply equally to the FTSE? Certainly, as in America, both monetary and fiscal tools are available. However, corporate behaviour looks much more defensive and short-termist. A survey on Monday by Experian showed that UK profit margins in the second quarter had risen to their highest level since 1989 as companies cut investment plans and jobs. In other words, British companies have been doing everything to maintain profit margins in the short term but making them far more difficult to come by in the long term. This is far from responding to the Chancellor's productivity drive and risks damaging consumer confidence unnecessarily. Britain clearly doesn't share America's virtuous stocks and investment cycle and it is therefore far harder to make a positive case for the FTSE.

Rules have changed for the world's stock market investors

Jason Nissé and Robert Cole on the reasons behind the rising volatility in recent years

What is the poor investor to do? One day the market falls 150 points, the next it is up 200. London, New York, Tokyo, Paris, Frankfurt; it does not matter on which market you trade, volatility has increased significantly in the past three years, and this year in particular. Take the supposed great bear market of the middle of this year. According to Ned Davis Research, the Wall Street analyst, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 19.3 per cent between July 17 and August 31, when the market started rising again, wiping out all the mid-year losses. This bear market — prompted by worries about Asian economic flu — lasted just 45 days; that is ten days less than the bear market that followed the October crash in 1987 (which many feel was no more than a market correction anyway) and one ninth of the average length of bear markets this century, which is 418 days.



environment, which involves interest rates, liquidity and growth in money supply, has remained constant. It is the glue that holds the market together and keeps it coming back despite intervals of worry." According to many observers, the biggest single motivating force behind the pricing of shares is the amount of cash coming into the market. The weight of money — largely as a result of people investing more in their pension funds as they realise the State will not provide for them in their old age — has driven share prices higher and a mass retrenchment in terms of liquidity is able to undermine prices alarmingly and quickly. But at the same time, the appetite for risk has declined in many quarters. One result has been that those larger piles of cash have gravitated towards the shares of bigger companies. DKB reckons that 98 per cent of money allocated to the London market by the large investment firms in invested in FTSE 100 stocks.

Shares of many small companies languish at prices which make it difficult to use the equity market to raise money. If a company cannot raise cash, the main justification for listing disappears. What is left is a stock market that is in danger of failing to fulfil the function for which it was originally started — to raise funds for businesses to develop and grow. If there had not been an active smaller companies market in the 1980s, some of the stalwarts of the FTSE 100, such as Tomkins or Carlton Communications, would not have gained the start that provided the platform for their successful growth. "In due course the market ought to settle down, but how it will pan out is hard to predict," says Mr Collins. "I am loath to attribute this market madness to investors, but they are so often the reason for it."

Squaring up to revival of Roundhouse

Every day, for more than 30 years, Torquil Norman passed the Roundhouse in Chalk Farm on the way from his Hampstead home to his office in Central London. In that time Norman's fortunes and the Roundhouse's went in virtually opposite directions. Norman left the City to set up Bluebird Toys and turn it into a £100 million company, while the Roundhouse declined from being one of the most famous arts and music centres of the 1960s to a crumbling, while elegant, that nobody knew what to do with.

For Norman, aged 64, this is a business. However, instead of generating profits and share price performance, this is about helping children with poor education and poor opportunities in life to make something of themselves. "This Government is always going on about tackling social exclusion," said Norman. "Well, we're doing something here."

Samba spin

GORDON Brown should stop worrying that Britain's absence from the first stage of monetary union is going to mark the end of Britain's economic influence abroad. If the performance of Pedro Malan, the Brazilian Finance Minister, in London yesterday is anything to go by, Mr Brown's peculiar turn of phrase is rapidly becoming the preferred common currency of the world's economic policymakers.

stability" and the ubiquitous "prudent and cautious" approach to public finances. Despite the conservative rhetoric, the Minister also appears to have been taking lessons from the Treasury on economic forecasting, claiming that Brazilian growth might better fit his own forecast of a 1 per cent contraction, although most independent economists are predicting the economy will shrink by as much as 3 per cent next year.



Senhor Malan: a Latin twist to Brown's policies

THE TIMES CITY DIARY. A graphic featuring the Times logo and the words 'THE TIMES CITY DIARY'.

for corporate Christmas cards. (Reindeer and robins are out). The Partners, the irritatingly named company that created the b2 logo for Barclays, has sent me details of some of its "entertaining and innovative" ideas. One, for Lewis Silkin, is the media law firm, is a card attached to a branded yo-yo with the catchline Yo-ho-ho. All terribly clever, but I prefer Lewis Silkin's card last year that took the form of a CD of staff belting out Jingle Bells. "They weren't too bad, actually," says one recipient.

Card games AS the slowing economy starts to provide more work for receivers there is no shortage of vultures — sorry, insolvency practitioners — in attendance

at yesterday's annual Insolvency Conference at The Brewery. Speaker Jeremy Goldring, partner at Dibt Lupton Alsop, the City solicitors, conceded that a decline in growth was likely to be a big blow to the construction and manufacturing sectors, but he cautioned the audience against getting too excited. "A recession in the sense of a substantial number of corporate failures, is not just around the corner," he cautioned. His clear message was that, for the time being, the profession is going to have to content itself with turnaround work that, of course, is far less lucrative than a good old-fashioned receivership. I'm told there was an almost audible sigh of disappointment from the auditorium.

WARBURG Dillon Read is presenting itself after the latest Eitel Smaller Companies Sector Survey, in which investment managers are asked to evaluate brokers on the quality of the services they provide. The firm picked up a total of four awards, including one for Marcus Chorley who was named best brokers salesperson. Mr Chorley was always guaranteed at least one vote — his wife Lesley is a smaller companies fund manager with Legal & General. It is hard to tell the couple are also to be congratulated on the birth last week of a son.

MD's move

GRESHAM Trust, the venture capitalist, has had a management shake-up. Trevor Jones, managing director for seven years, was told yesterday that he is to be replaced by Paul Marsden-Smith, who joined last year from 3i. Paul Marsden-Smith, Gresham's chairman, says: "These things are never easy. Trevor made a huge contribution but it's time for a change as the business moves forward."



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Shares lose early gains

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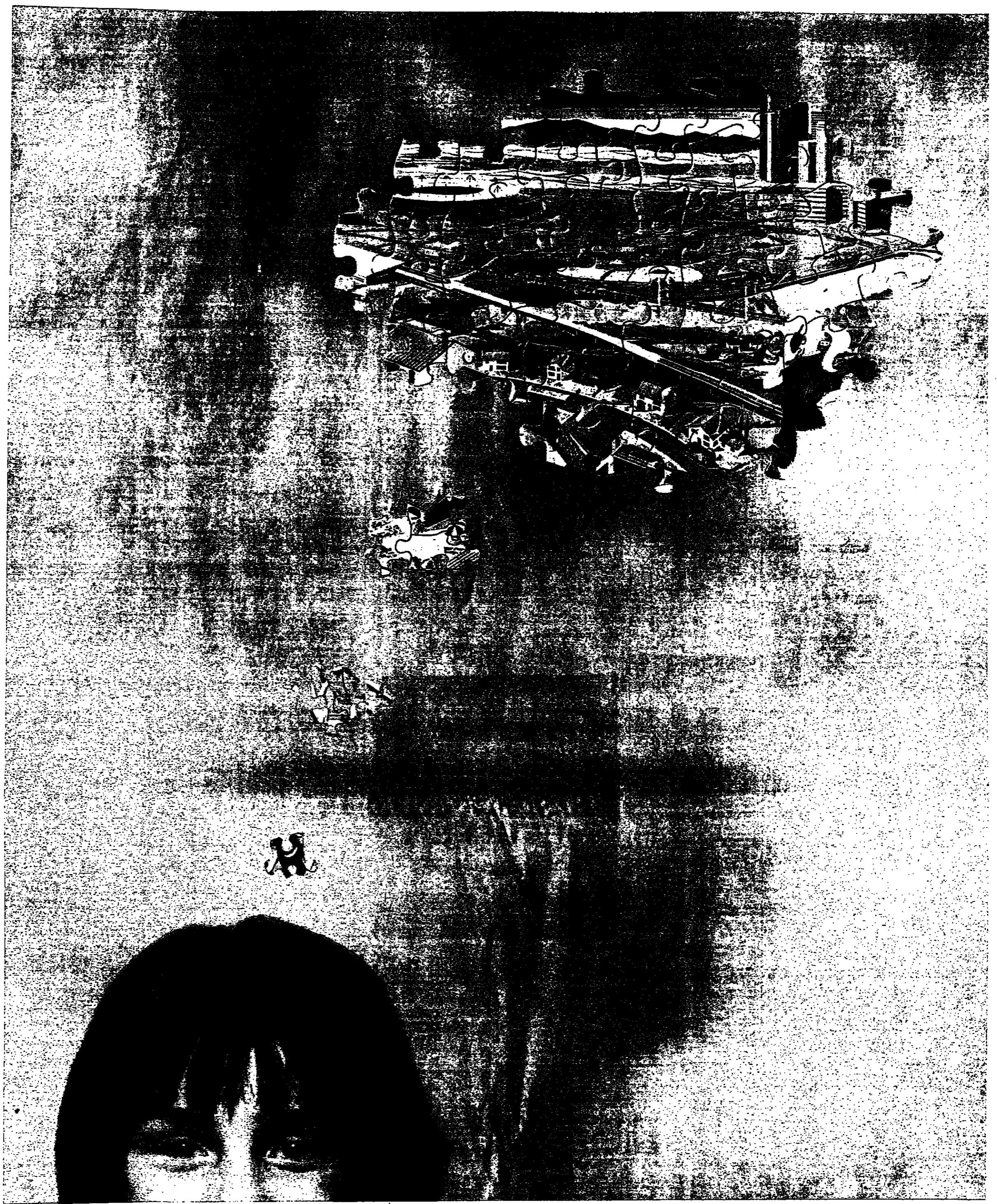
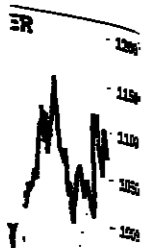
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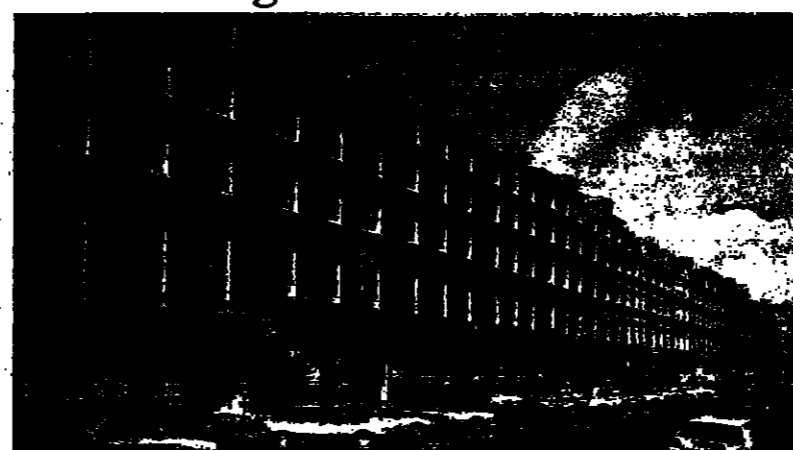
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Radical change starts at the grass-roofs level

The Integer Millennium House's innovative use of low and high-tech has produced a home that is truly green. Rachel Kelly reports

The roofscapes of Britain could soon turn green. The last bit of turf has just been planted on a roof that combines glass and alpine grass at the Building Research Establishment in Garston, Watford. Next month Hilary Armstrong, the Housing Minister, will open the £250,000 house — which is to feature in a BBC series — and the public will be able to visit early next year. Its designers are confident that it will become the roof of the future.

The innovative style, a radical departure from slate and tile, is the culmination of a two-year project. Known as the "Integer" (for "intelligent and green") Millennium House, the building combines low-tech environmentally friendly design and advanced information technology.

The Watford project will have wide influence: similar designs will be on show at the Greenwich Millennium Village, and there are plans for such developments for about 100 homes in housing association property in West Bromwich, Harlow, Maidenhead and Wiltshire. It is hoped that construction on 15 houses at each site will start next spring at a cost of about £1 million.

The project leader, Nick Thompson, of the architects Cole Thompson Associates, says: "Although there is only a demonstration house at present, we will be building production houses next year. They are superior in safety, security and comfort to the conventional home and represent better value."

Despite being slightly more expensive than the more traditional options, Mr Thompson is confident that the energy saved in heating means that the roof would more than pay for itself over a few years. He estimates that the extra features in the house add around 15 per cent extra to costs.

The materials used within the project have been modified to make them suitable for domestic use. The

glass covering one side of the building is "impact resistant" and does not shatter. It has been developed by Queensbury International, which has worked with Cole Thompson on the Queen Elizabeth Glasshouse at Windsor Great Park. Doors on to the garden help to regulate the temperature, while louvres at the top provide more ventilation. There are automated shades for summer.

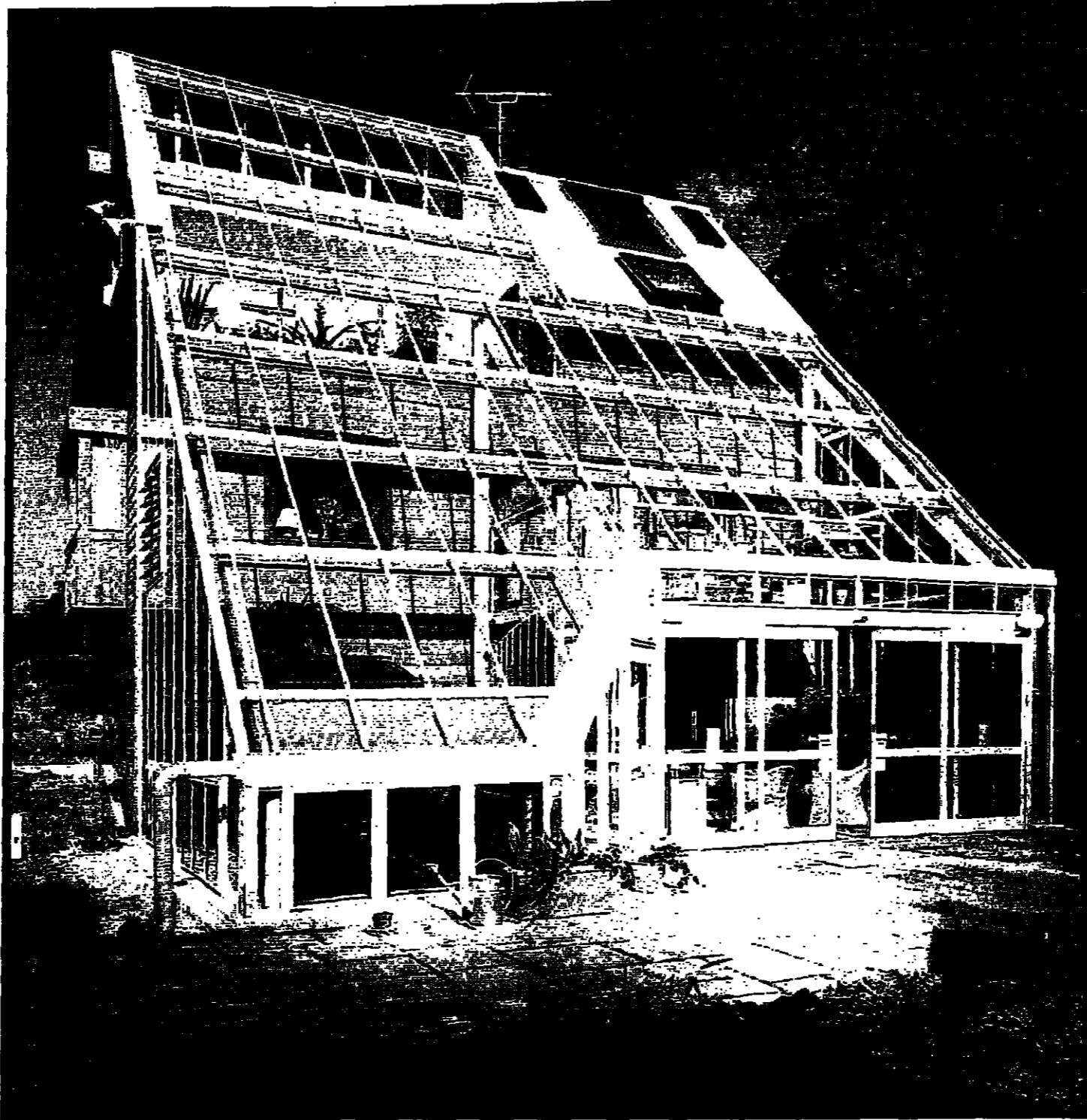
The glass side of the roof incorporates a rainwater collection system. Water is collected in a V-shaped gutter from where it runs into a pond and is used to water the garden. Its 45-degree pitch should mean that the glass is, in effect, self-cleaning.

The other side of the roof will be made up of a special grass, sedum, chosen for its hardiness and because of the low level of maintenance that it requires. The sedum is pre-grown and rolled on top of a mineral wool layer that prevents the roof draining too quickly. A biodegradable compound stops roots growing down and damaging lower layers. The roof vegetation helps to lower carbon dioxide levels, which dovetails with the Government's efforts to make the building trade reduce consumption of the gas.

The walls of the building are clad in western red cedar, which requires no staining or sealing. Parts of the house were assembled off-site. Bathrooms with water-saving, tapless baths were prefabricated and craned in. The heating is from renewable sources, notably a geothermal probe buried next to the house that draws on the temperature of the earth and converts it with a heat pump to power trench heaters in the floors. The house also boasts an "intelligent key system" that admits visitors at pre-programmed times.

The Integer project is one of many environmentally friendly schemes designed in part to celebrate the millennium. Perhaps the biggest will be the Millennium Village in Greenwich. The aim is to re-

'It is not a grass hut; it is well designed, with all mod cons'



The glass roof covering one side of the Integer Millennium House is shatter-proof and incorporates a system to collect rainwater

duce energy consumption by 80 per cent, domestic waste by 50 per cent and car use by 30 per cent. The targets rely on villagers driving less, becoming familiar with their waste-recycling facilities and being careful with the central heating. The Government's regeneration agency English Partnerships is looking at its next generation of millennium villages with the aim of producing a blueprint for regeneration, too.

And in a private project at Hockerton, near Newark, the first of five families have moved into homes roofed with 500 tons of earth. The families generate their own power, collect and recycle water and grow their own food. Nick White and his three children live in one of the houses. "The joy of these roofs is that our homes are heated at 20 degrees but we are not using any central heating. The insulation is fantastic. And the roofs mean that we blend in — the other day a man from ParcelForce couldn't find us."

He says there is nothing eccentric about his home: "We are middle-class professionals who want a life-style that is less damaging to the planet. These are not huts with grass roofs, but carefully designed homes with all the mod cons."

Additional reporting by Anna Hillon



The other half of the roof is made of sedum, a grass chosen for its hardiness and low maintenance

SMART MOVES

THE Hackwood Park Estate near Basingstoke in Hampshire sold this month for an estimated £7 million to the developers British Land. The house and its exceptional Spring Wood was previously owned by the late Lord Camrose, whose family owned *The Daily Telegraph*. British Land is thought to wish to develop the estate with its links to the M3 and Basingstoke. Private buyers were dissuaded by the road blight, say the agents, Knight Frank.

□ A FLAT in 12-14 Reeves Mews, London, the former home of Christina Onassis, is for sale. Her father, Aristotle Onassis, bought the property in 1967 and gave it to her for her 16th birthday. The flat is for sale through DTZ Debenham Thorpe for £895,000 on a 62-year lease.

□ THERE are 14,000 acres on the Welsh Pencelli Estate in the Brecon Beacons for sale. The land comes with the manorial title of "Lord of the Manor of Welsh Pencelli", and also sporting and mineral rights. The area has sites of historic importance dating from medieval and Roman times. The estate is between Merthyr Tydfil and Brecon and is for sale through Knight Frank's Hereford office.

□ THE house of the painter, illustrator, writer and war artist Paul Nash is for sale. Nash moved to Oxford in 1939 where he created a bureau for artists to help them to paint and support themselves in other jobs. He worked as an artist for the Air Ministry and Ministry of Information. Some of his paintings hang in the Tate Gallery and the Imperial War Museum. 106 Banbury Road, Oxford, has ten bedrooms and is being sold by Carter Jonas's Oxford office for £1,100,000.

□ DINISH ISLAND in the Kenmare Estuary in Co Kerry is for sale. The 28-acre island has an eight-bedroom main house with guest annex, boathouse, three piers, a five-bedroom cottage and several outbuildings. The island has mains water, electricity, telephone and oil-fired central heating and is for sale through Knight Frank for £1,320,000.

□ THE former home of Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein is for sale. Isington Mill, in Alton, Hampshire, is a Grade II converted mill on the River Wey. After the Second World War, the Field Marshal returned homeless and bought the old water mill, granary and oast houses in Isington, which he later converted. With the shortage of building materials after the war, contributions for the house came from all over the Commonwealth. Many of the doors and floors are made from Tasmanian oak. The house was handed down to his son, the present Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, who sold it to the vendors in 1989. The house is for sale through Knight Frank's Guildford office for £900,000.

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CHANGING TIMES

It pays to give nanny home help

Staff housing can lift prices, says Annabel Venning

NICOLA HORLICK says she could not run her life without one and New York bankers poach each others' with extravagant enticements, such as sports cars, tennis coaching and luxury flats.

If Mary Poppins were around today and working in Greenwich Village she could probably command a BMW and a smart loft apartment at the least.

Top nannies now demand top accommodation, as estate agents and developers have discovered. Houses with the right nanny flat can command 5 to 10 per cent premiums.

Good domestic staff are in high demand, says Serena le Maistre, of her eponymous agency. She places about 100 nannies a year, the majority of them in live-in positions. The accommodation, with few exceptions, is usually of a high standard and is often separate from the main house, which most nannies prefer.

"The upstairs-downstairs mentality is becoming rare," says Ms le Maistre. "Employers recognise the value of good domestic staff and reward them with good working and living conditions".



Paying her way: Kelly Fisk, a nanny in her flat at her employer's home in West London

room and sitting room-cum-kitchen. Sue Parry, sales and marketing director for CALA Homes, explains the thinking behind these developments. With two-income families and working hours on the rise, Britons are increasingly turning to outside help to run their households. The amount spent on domestic help has tripled in the past decade to £4.3 billion a year. "Houses with separate staff accommodation will be a big thing," Ms Parry predicts. Estate agents are also find-

ing that annexes that can be used for nanny, granny or a carer are popular. "They can be a big selling point," says Rory O'Leary, of FPD Savills, which is selling a property in Hampstead with its own staff flat under the main house.

And, as Jonathan Wates, of Wates Built Homes, emphasises: "You needn't be a millionaire to be thinking about having staff accommodation within your property."

Wates is now building houses in Surrey which sell at around £700,000 and incorporate an annex with a separate entrance, a big attraction for families with nannies.

"There are privacy issues: one thing that puts people off having a nanny is that they can't walk around naked in their own house. Also, the nanny doesn't necessarily want to wake the household up when she comes back at night, so a separate entrance is ideal."

As one new parent explains, having nanny accommodation saves money in the long run.

HOW THE CATTLE SHED ADDED VALUE

JEREMY VINCENT, a chartered surveyor, lives in Hampshire with his wife and three children aged seven, five and two. The couple converted the cattle shed next to their house into a cottage, where their au pair lives rent-free, with her boyfriend, who works locally.

Mr Vincent says: "We did most of the work ourselves, with a local builder. It cost us about £15,000, half the price quoted by

contractors, and it has added value to the house. The living space totals 500sq ft, including two bedrooms, a bathroom, kitchen, sitting room and a garden. It is separate from the main house: we made the au pair and her friend don't look over our courtyard. The couple may be nice, but I don't necessarily want them around every minute."

"You end up paying a higher salary for a daily nanny as it has to cover her rent, but if she's living with you, you can pay less. And you don't have to worry that she'll turn up on time." As live-in nannies can expect to be paid £150-£200 per week, while a live-out nanny gets £250-£300 on average, splashing out on a nanny annexe could pay dividends.

So what are the practicalities of changing your home so that you and your nanny can happily live with each other, not on top of each other? If the house does not include staff accommodation the options are to adapt it to incorporate an apartment such as the flat occupied by Kelly Fisk at her employer's home in Parson's Green, West London, extend it or build a separate residence.

Anthony de Moubray, of the Canterbury-based architects Lee Evans De Moubray, offers the following advice:

If it is for a nanny, bear in mind how you might use the space afterwards — as a games room or granny annexe perhaps — and plan accordingly: always get planning permission first and, if it is a listed building, permission.

Obtain quotes before you do anything. Costs can escalate, particularly if you have to put in insulation, or if you are converting an historic building: be aware that your planning permission will probably be contingent on not selling the new development as a separate property. Try to use local people who will know the council and what its policy is on extensions, as well as the cheapest suppliers.

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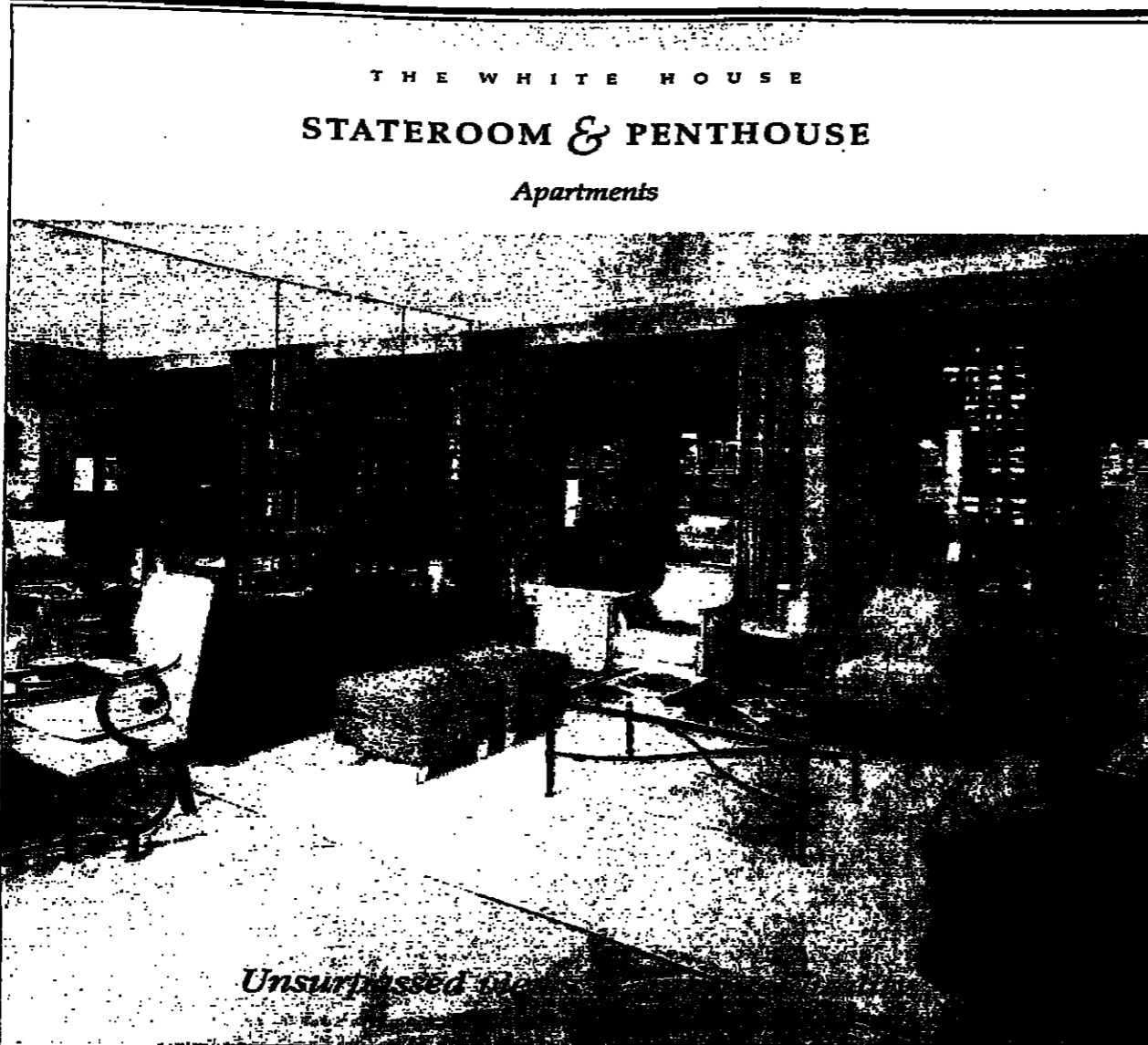
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Cardiff's dockland, once a red-light district blighted by decades of urban decay, is being transformed, Senay Boztas reports

How Tiger Bay turned respectable

Eleven years ago, the only attraction in Cardiff Bay was the rundown red-light area. But a multimillion-pound regeneration project has been trying to seduce a different kind of punter. Offices, shops and 6,000 new homes are rising from the once-derelict landscape, and even the streets are growing — eight miles, in total, around the huge freshwater lake created by a new bay barrage.

"We were trying to get away from the London Docklands idea of attracting only yuppies," says Pat Lewis, the housing strategy manager for the Cardiff Bay Development Corporation (CBDC). "We wanted different kinds of people: whatever your income, whatever your lifestyle, there is something for you."

The CBDC is responsible for building the barrage across the mouth of the bay to transform the 1,100-hectare site. Part of the old docks remains, together with historic monuments such as the 19th-century Pierhead Building. But after a vast clean-up operation, ten housing developers and various businesses are moving in.

In September the city council gave the go-ahead for a sports village designed to accommodate ice hockey, among other pursuits. Whether this proceeds will depend on the success of a £9 million Sportstadium bid, which is awaiting a recommendation. An American bank has also announced that it is moving in and the building housing the Welsh National Assembly will be completed in the inner bay next year.

The international rugby stadium will be between the bay development and the city centre: there is already a shop-

ping village and a leisure complex complete with nightclub and cinemas.

Of the 6,000 new homes planned, some 2,500 have been built at various points around the bay. A quarter of these are "social housing" for those on council waiting lists. The aim, according to Frank Leavis, CBDC's public affairs manager, is to integrate private with council housing in

"There will be no uptown and downtown, just one big European capital"

continental-style flats. "We want people to live and work here, rather than commuting for an hour every day from the suburbs," he says.

Mr Leavis is adamant that the attractions of the bay will not render the city centre lifeless. "We want to merge Cardiff Bay with the city centre, making it seamless," he says. "There will be no uptown and downtown, just one big European capital with Bute Avenue and Square at its core."

The CBDC is keen to create a sense of community among new residents. From the owner of a £49,000 one-bedroom flat to the occupant of a £300,000 luxury penthouse. Already there is a newsletter, *Making Waves*, in which residents can make their views known.

St David, a housebuilding

firm belonging to the Berkeley Group, is building more than 200 homes in the inner bay, at Adventurers Quay. Its site spans a marina which will be a centre for watersports, although swimmers will have to wait 20 years before the water is clean enough for them to take a dip.

Many houses on the bay have panoramic views, and from the penthouse flats it is even possible to catch a glimpse of the Bristol coast. "The inner harbour has the potential to become one of the most sought-after residential locations in Britain," says Susan Jaquest, sales and marketing director for St David. Buyers who moved into the first one and two-bedroom flats completed by the company in June have already seen the price of their properties rise by 10 per cent.

St David is also building a waterfront development. The Meridian, with 21 Mediterranean-style townhouses costing from £220,000 to £300,000. The Sears block of 224 flats, half of which have already been sold, range from £82,500 for one-bedroom apartments to £315,000 for two-bedroom penthouses with balcony and terrace. They will be completed next year. Ms Jaquest expects them to sell well before construction ends.

At the other end of the bay is Windsor Quay, a development with mixed private and social housing developed by Westbury builders. Houses start at about £60,000 and are closer to shops, although projected transport links have not been built to any part of the development. People who were quick to buy in the area still have to en-



Adventurers Quay with its breathtaking views spans a marina, which will be a centre for watersports, and will be home to more than 200 households

sure construction noise and unsightly rubble, and road links to the city centre have been disrupted as work proceeds to see the area as a good investment. Promotional brochures optimistically call it "the new commercial heart of Cardiff".

In 2000 the CBDC will hand over to a new developer and the Welsh Office will no longer exist, but the bay will have been transformed. And while the CBDC does its best to attract new homeowners, arrangements are being made to rehouse one particular group of established residents. Birds living on mudflats threatened by the development are being moved to alternative nesting sites farther along the bay.

A JOLLY GOOD MOVE

FIRST-TIME buyer Graham Jolly will move into a £66,500 two-bedroom flat at Windsor Quay in November. "Cardiff Bay offers value in an exciting location with brilliant prospects," he says. Mr Jolly, an area manager for a retail company, wanted a lively base for a couple of years with good transport links. He transferred from Bournemouth in February, and has been renting in Windsor Quay since then.

Happy with the area, he decided to make a more permanent move, and has bought a new flat on the waterfront, built by Westbury builders. It is still being constructed, but he was keen to get a bargain and, living alone, he can be flexible. "I looked at Penarth and Haven near by," he says, "but a place in Cardiff Bay is a good investment. It is easy to get to — and my job involves travelling around the whole of southeast Wales."

Pat Lewis, housing strategy manager of the CBDC, describes Windsor Quay as a flagship mixture of social and private housing, and Mr Jolly thinks it works. He says: "There is a limited community at the moment, so things like little local shops are lacking." But he is sure that the development will grow.

A VIEW FROM THE TOP

CHARLES EVESON, 50, is selling his London penthouse to settle into his £300,000 two-bedroom flat with panoramic views of Cardiff Bay.

"In London I became a convert to penthouse living — so when I came here, I was hooked. Cardiff Bay has a wonderful freshness about it. I'm confident it will be a good investment," he says.

Mr Eveson is a manager of a top motoring firm, and transferred to Wales 15 months ago. He once owned an Oxfordshire country house but now loves loft living. He was looking for a penthouse for about £200,000 and was surprised by the prices for Adventurers Quay, developed by St David. But he couldn't resist his duplex penthouse with its sea view above Penarth marina. At Christmas he will move into the 2,000sq ft flat on the sixth floor. A 35ft-long drawing room will open on to a private balcony, and a spiral staircase will lead to two large bedrooms. It will be fitted with beechwood floors and a customised colour scheme.

Mr Eveson, who is renting across the bay, regularly visits his penthouse while it is being completed. "It is breathtaking," he says. "We hear a lot about South Wales attracting new industry, but this is still a well-kept secret."

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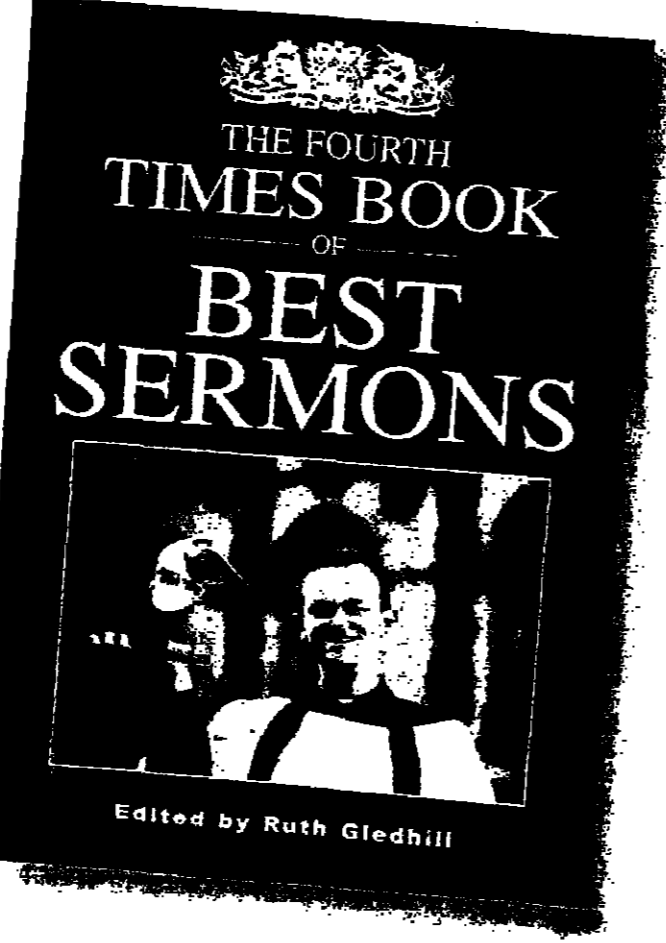
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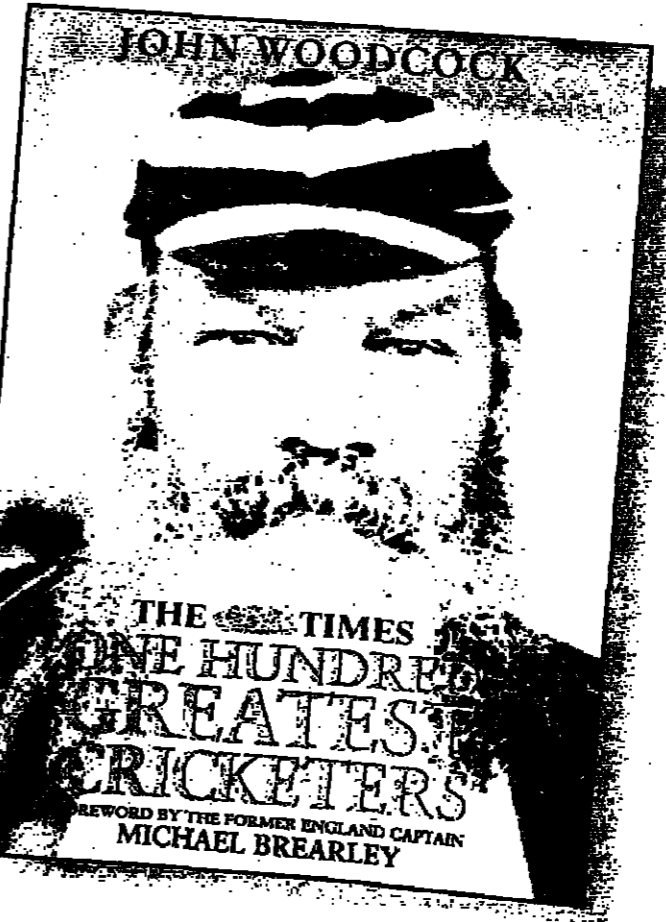
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Lesley Garrett stars in the ENO's Barber

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NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London... THE BEST OF TIMES: The Britney Spears programme...

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the latest movies... ANGEL SHARKS (15): Hectic, flashy French film about restless teenagers...

ARTS

Accentuate the positive

With album sales in excess of seven million and a Mercury Music Prize on their mantelpiece, M People are one of the most successful British bands of the Nineties...



Feel-good arena pop: M People's Heather Small in performance at the RDS in Dublin

Stuck with a rut

It is a tribute to the West Country blues-rock quartet Reef that they sold out their current British tour after a year away from the music scene...

single remains the quartet's most dynamic and memorable song to date... Rather less impressively, the band still seemed to be stuck in a rut of their own making...

POP

Rocking with Reef

Master of loud art

In attempting to describe the famously pugnacious sound of Maynard Ferguson's late-1950s band for which he played second trombone...

JAZZ

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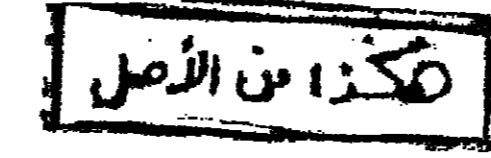
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HERITAGE Save our warehouses

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Icon-painting revived

ARCHITECTURE: Marcus Binney reports on the growing calls to regenerate Britain's derelict buildings as housing

Plenty of room to park in town?



Home is where the derelict building was: left, two of the ten disused warehouses in Manchester's Whitworth Street that now provide more than 1,000 flats; right, the once-derelict St Saviour's Dock in Southwark is a mix of businesses and homes

Lord Rogers of Riverside has a fight on his hands. His Urban Task Force was set up to identify brown-field sites to help to meet the Government's target of 4.4 million new homes in England by 2016. But it foresaw the need being met entirely by new development in its prospectus, listed buildings are regarded simply as a constraint that "can effectively block redevelopment".

up to 100,000 homes can be created in empty commercial space. Loft apartments are now being created in old warehouses all over the country by private developers and housing associations; in Whitworth Street, Manchester, ten warehouses have been converted to more than 1,000 flats, creating a new residential community, in addition over 20 per cent of modern office space is empty in many town centres and, according to the report, "the number of office conversions [to housing] is much higher than anyone expected".

The big question is just how quickly these buildings can be brought back into use. The attraction of greenfield sites is that once services such as water and sewerage have been provided, building is easy. By contrast, persistence is needed to free up empty buildings. A handy report, *Joined Up Thinking*, published by the indefatigable Empty Homes Agency, describes successful action by local councils.

Empty homes can be a serious blight on neighbouring houses. Absentee owners include offshore companies hoping to cash in on redevelopment, and developers with negative equity awaiting an upturn in the market. Compulsory purchase is expensive and time consuming. The agency recommends that councils carrying out "works-in-default" put a charge on the property, like a mortgage, the mere threat of this frequently prompts a sale.

Most prejudicial of all is the fact that new houses are free of VAT while most forms of repair attract a hefty 17.5 per cent rate. URBED demands equal treatment for new building and conversions. For Rogers and his colleagues, it is a question of which battle to fight first. The scene is set for a replay of the classic battle fought by the Association of Waterloo Groups against Rogers's proposals in the early Eighties for a massive development of offices and shops running from Waterloo station to Blackfriars Bridge.

won, the Oxo Tower is handsomely restored, and a large number of local families occupy newly built terraces near by. The Government's call for much higher densities around major rail terminals could spark fierce battles 'with local communities in places such as King's Cross and Southwark. These are all the more unnecessary as English Heritage has a massive war chest for conservation area regeneration. If Rogers can make common cause with environmental groups, he could go down in history as the man who both revived the city and saved the countryside. And there will still be no shortage of land for new architecture on brownfield sites - up to 75,000 hectares, providing 3.5 million homes.

GREAT BRITISH HOPES Rising stars in the arts firmament

PETER ROSE

Age: 21 Profession: Playwright. Fleshy fantasy: Aged 19, he wrote *Snatch*, a gruesome drama about a man and a woman who possess each other's bodies. Premiered by Soho Theatre Company at the Pleasance in London earlier this month, it was praised by *The Times*'s Jeremy Kingston as "alarming" and "remarkable". Picture perfect: *Bloody Ugly*, completed when he was all of 17, opened at the White Bear Theatre, Kennington, last night and runs until December 13. "It's a fairly extreme story about an art dealer who visits a really working-class household, decides that the girl he finds there is a perfect work of art and offers her father a huge amount of money for her."



Any more scripts tucked away? Yes. *Monsters* has been lying around for five years. "It's about a girl who has no morals. It's OK, but you can tell I was 16 when I wrote it." No model pupil, he: He left school in East Barnet, London, at 16. "I didn't get on with the teachers and wasn't very good at being taught. As soon as I left, I started writing and also found myself reading and adoring Shakespeare. Dylan Thomas and all the other writers I had despised at school." Making ends meet: "To pay the bills I worked in shops, as a labourer at Kew Gardens and with my Dad, who's a baker. When I was unemployed I wrote all day." Favourite characters: "I'm interested in innocent people who become victims. I don't want to write just for entertainment's sake. I want to get people talking." Influences? The most important is another dramatist with a penchant for innocent victims: Joe Orton. "I like the way he laughed at things you aren't supposed to laugh at." Ideal audience: "I don't want just to attract regular theatregoers. My Mum and Dad and about 30 of my friends and relations came to see *Snatch* and none of them had ever been to the theatre before. What's great is that my parents went back to the Pleasance for the next production." What next? "I'm working on a new play, but I haven't got an agent and I'm not earning a living from writing. I'll see how things go for another year and review the situation."

DANIEL ROSENTHAL

A pestle to the faithful

Recently I visited Westminster Abbey. Outside, on Parliament Square, the rush-hour traffic bashed and hassled. Big Ben bashed out the passing hour. But inside all was still. Thick walls filtered the fluster from the morning air. And, hanging on twin piers of the nave, a pair of icons gleamed, their solemn beauty seeming to capture and distil the quiet mood. "It would be difficult to be an iconographer and not be religious," says Sergei Fyodorov, the Russian artist from whom this pair of icons was commissioned four years ago. He himself, having been brought up in Soviet Russia, came to his own Orthodox beliefs only later in life. He was already a teenage student at a Moscow art college when, captivated by the beauty of the icons in a museum, he grew curious and visited a church for the first time. From then on he secretly apprenticed himself to a monk, Father Zinov, who, over the next decades, was not only to inspire Fyodorov in his faith, but teach him the ancient traditions of the iconographer's art. "The purpose of an artist in making a painting is completely different from that of making an icon," Fyodorov explains. "Although an icon may look like a painting on the surface, it is a church doctrine, an evidence of the embodiment of God." The process of creating one, he believes, is a service similar to that which a priest leads in church. It should be prayerful. Perhaps prayer is the source of the icon painter's necessary sense of dedication. In a contemporary era of acrylic paints and ready-made components, when a "masterpiece" can be only an idea and a phone call to a technician away, the painstaking processes of iconography may appear old-fashioned

The Russian iconographer's art is alive, well, and on show in London. Rachel Campbell-Johnston reports



Virgin with Child, by the iconographer Sergei Fyodorov

and unprofitable. The ancient techniques which Fyodorov follows cannot be hurried or made easier. "If a process takes 12 hours then it takes 12 hours," he says. "It can't be cut to six." He explains the careful stages by which an icon is prepared, starting from the wooden board: lime is best - soft and without too many knots or too much resin. On to this, layer upon layer of gesso is applied, building up a surface like polished ivory on to which the lineaments of composition can eventually be laid down with a precision that takes years of practice. Gilding is also a skilled - and expensive - craft. Rich 24 carat gold is applied in leaves, although for the finest details - the fringes of a Virgin's robe or the stars on St George's billowing cape - gold dust bound with gum arabic is painted on. Using a pestle and mortar, Fyodorov grinds all his own pigments - malachite, lapis, ochres and cinnabar - mixing them into an emulsion with egg yolk, water

and white wine. "Any old wine will do," says Fyodorov. "I'm not going to waste chablis. But the eggs must be free-range and organic." When the painting is complete - another slow process, since Fyodorov paints only in daylight and during the summer months - the gilt is burnished by rubbing with a smooth hard stone and the icon's surface sealed with a varnish made of amber, ground and melted in turpentine and linseed oil. Stirred over heat for five or six hours, it is applied as it cools, before it becomes too viscous. An exhibition of Fyodorov's work, *A Vision of Eternity*, has been giving buyers in search of authentic craftsmanship a rare opportunity. Once, icons were smuggled out of Russia easily and could be picked up at reasonable prices by those prepared to brush away pangs of conscience. Now the Russian mafia has a stranglehold control on the business. Prices have soared. And although, as a result, a number of modern commercial icon-makers have sprung up, they understand neither the technical nor spiritual basics of their art. "A commercial icon," Fyodorov says, "is just a horrible picture. Gold does not make an icon real." The craftsmanship of Fyodorov's art is rare - the serene composition, the rich sense of colour, the subtlety of the brushwork, the delicacy of each detail. But it is the inspiration behind them that shines through. "If a true iconographer talks of inspiration, he can only talk of God's inspiration," Fyodorov says. *Vision of Eternity is at Daphne Johns Contemporary Art, 12 Duke Street, SW1 (0171-930 0986) until Friday*

The Royal Opera at Sadler's Wells. The Bartered Bride. A new production directed by Francesca Zambello and conducted by Bernard Haitink and David Syrus. Bedřich Smetana. Tickets: £7.50 - £60. Sung in Czech with English Surtitles. Sadler's Wells Ticket Office: 0171-863 8000. FirstCall: 0171-420 1166. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, Islington, London EC1. Nearest Angel. Sadler's Wells logo.

MUSIC

An American giant at 90

Avant-garde for ninety years

MUSIC: Britain pays homage to Elliott Carter this week. John Allison met the great composer

When a composer reaches 90, there is plenty of music to choose from for a birthday concert. But it is fitting that when leading interpreters of Elliott Carter's music gather at the Barbican on Saturday to celebrate with him, all the works will be recent. He is experiencing such a remarkable Indian summer that a retrospective would hardly be appropriate.

Indeed, of the two scores receiving first London performances, one — the Piano Quintet — will be only ten days old, having been premiered in Washington last Wednesday. If the style of his other new works is anything to go by, this music will be as complex as ever yet sparer than before, while still immediately engaging in its emotion.

Carter's recent music belongs to a "late late" period that few would have predicted. His long life has only increased his stature. Today this distinguished, sharp-witted figure, the embodiment of what a great composer should look like, still works away in the study in his Greenwich Village apartment in New York.

On the day I visited, earlier this month, the desk was covered in pages from his first opera, due for its premiere in Berlin next summer. Apty titled *What Next?*, it has been a big undertaking at his age, even if it is a chamber opera lasting around 45 minutes. Commissioned by Daniel Barenboim, it was the result of the conductor's persistence.

"Even when I was in hospital with nearly fatal pneumonia he was on the phone. I began to think that if somebody wanted it that much, I must think of a subject."

"Finally I saw the movie of Jacques Tati called *Traffic*. It has one moment that leads to



Elliott Carter, whose 90th birthday is celebrated in Britain this weekend. "I thought about writing electronic music, but I found the sounds primitive"

all the others — an enormous automobile accident. Everyone gets out and starts doing exercises, everything's turned into a joke. I liked the idea of a comic opera, so I talked to Paul Griffiths about providing the libretto."

What had kept him from writing an opera before? "The kind of text I'd been interested in would not have interested an operatic audience. They were all curious things by people like Ionesco and Beckett. I felt that if I wrote what I wanted to, nobody would play it in America. Maybe in Europe,

but in America the operatic world has been very limited, and I felt a lot of resistance."

Carter is perhaps a prophet without honour in his own country. Recent events, such as the New York Philharmonic's cancellation of a previously secured commission, have only served to underline his alienation from the American musical scene. He admits that his performance royalties are about four times as high from Europe as from America.

"Most of the world now supports young composers, which is right. If you support an old

composer it shows you have conviction in what he did; with a young one it's showing conviction in what he might do — so you're not in a situation where you can be criticised. America has always been not very concerned with its past but always looks to its future."

Carter's outlook is thoroughly transatlantic, and it is not surprising that while Europeans view him as American, Americans think of him as European. Though labelling can be dangerous, he is neither

very American nor very European. For one thing he never went down the electronic music route of most of his European counterparts.

"I'm very wedded to the idea of people performing, and part of the effect of music is the presence of performers. A concert is a kind of abstract theatrical event. I thought about writing electronic music, but I found the sounds primitive."

Though Carter's music sounds like no other, he lists many influences. First come Scriabin, Stravinsky and the experience of hearing Bartok perform in the 1920s. Then there was his friendship with Varese, and studies in Paris with Boulanger.

Most famously there was his mentor Ives, and even Copland at first. "Copland was a very evocative writer, but I didn't find that American folkloric stuff very admirable. He was looking at it through some kind of nostalgic haze, but it was a rather brutal time, nothing to be nostalgic about. My grandfather was actually in the Civil War, so we had it all in our family."

Carter had a privileged upbringing, in the New York epoch described by Edith Wharton. "But I was a very rebellious young fellow. I was against this bourgeois world. I can't say I was a communist, but I got very interested in the Soviet Union."

"My classmates were also interested in contemporary things. One of them was Eugene O'Neill's son, and at the

time O'Neill ran a theatre where the added attraction was that you buy liquor, even during the Prohibition!"

He still recoils at the conservatism he encountered at Harvard, where he read not only music but literature, Greek, mathematics and philosophy. "I went there primarily because the Boston Symphony was playing so much contemporary music under Koussevitzky, but the Harvard music department thought it all an aberration that needed to be suppressed."

Composition lessons with Holst, an exchange professor, cannot have helped. "He always used to say: 'Mr Carter, if you played the piano better you wouldn't play so many wrong notes!'"

Seventy years on, Carter remains a confirmed Modernist. "What I consider conservative everyone else now considers Post-Modern! I'm bothered by repetitive music. We live in a world that is insistently repetitive: look at all the advertising that goes on, the political things that repeat themselves. And yet people seem to want this sleepy-time music. It's dangerous not to think, and art should be setting an example."

● *The Barbican celebrates Carter from 4pm on Saturday with the Arditti Quartet, Ursula Oppens and BBC Symphony Orchestra (0171-638 8891). Carter is also featured at the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival on Friday (01484 430528)*

ARTS

DANCE

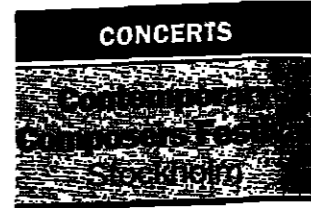
Royal Ballet upheaval

Homage paid to Sweden's own

This time last year Stockholm's Konserthus honoured Sir Michael Tippett in an ambitious ten-day festival of his music. It turned out to be the final — and one of the finest — celebrations before his death. This year the grand old man of Swedish music, 77-year-old Ingvar Lidholm, is being feted in this annual festival devoted to a single contemporary composer for which the Konserthus is renowned.

Like Tippett, Lidholm's influence on the music and the musical activity of his native land is vast and various. His career has spanned composition, teaching, radio, journalism; his music is written in every genre. Like Tippett, too, the young Lidholm was fascinated by Stravinsky, by early vocal polyphony, by the Classical, the Neo-Classical and, above all, by the human voice. Essentially more conventional than Tippett in both his musical and dramatic thinking, Lidholm is a supreme master of choral writing; indeed, it seems at times as if the human voice is there singing at the heart of everything he writes.

As Robert Wilson's new production of Strindberg's *Dream Play* was opening across the road, Lidholm's symphonic adaptation of his own 1992 *Dream Play* opera (premiered this August in Santa Fe in a production by Colin Graham) was being rehearsed in the Konserthus. I dropped by later in the week for an evening called *The Greek Inspiration* in which the seldom performed *Nausicaa Alone*, a thrilling half-hour ritual for solo soprano (Nina Stemme), choir and ensemble (the Stock-



Ingvar Lidholm, 77, is being feted in this annual festival devoted to a single contemporary composer for which the Konserthus is renowned.

holm Sinfonietta), was preceded by an eloquent new "dialogue" for oboe and cor anglais called *Grekkiska pipa*. This often demanding and challenging festival has managed to build and sustain full houses for the greater part of its 12 years, largely thanks to the local loyalty built by the charisma of the Konserthus's outgoing director, Ake Holmqvist, now in his last year, and by energetic and imaginative programming. This concert also matched Stravinsky's *Apollon Musagète* with Lidholm's hieratic *The Persians*, a thrumming, throbbing dramatic scene for tenor, baritone, and male voice choir (the excellent Orpheu Drängar).

The full extent of the versatility and virtuosity of Lidholm's choral palette was revealed the following evening when the great Swedish choral conductor Eric Ericson, celebrating his 80th birthday, conducted his own chamber choir in the three Greek epigrams, or "motets for music", which form Lidholm's *Ur A cappella book*. They sprang out of the echoes of madrigals by Monteverdi and Gesualdo, and found continuing reverberations in *The Wind's Lament*, an unaccompanied chorus, by turns alic and elegiac, from Lidholm's *Dream Play*.

HILARY FINCH

Bach out of time

Frans Brüggen returned to the Barbican with his Orchestra of the 18th Century and the Gulbenkian Choir for an all-Bach programme that featured the *Magnificat*, and it was all very revealing — although not perhaps in the way I would have expected.

Tempo, especially in the choruses, were on the fast side, which allowed the small-scale, light-toned Gulbenkian Choir to whizz through virtuoso figural numbers such as *Omnis Generationes*, but they lacked depth in the more dramatic moments. Generally, however, the balance between choir and orchestra was good.

But more telling than the niceties of tone and timbre (astonishingly loud flutes, for example, in the *Et misericordia*), was the sense that both Brüggen and his players are now more centred on the repertoire of the latter part of the 18th century, on the Classical period (and later) rather than the Baroque, and that this has influenced his approach to Bach. That approach is generally broader and sometimes less characterfully shaped; it seemed as if it were intended to pad out a comparatively short second half. There was much fine orchestral playing, but I do wonder when those once passionately held ideals quietly began to be dropped.

TESS KNIGHTON

DANCE: Yet another crisis has hit the Royal Ballet, writes Debra Craine

Farewell to Covent Garden



Tetsuya Kumakawa is being joined by five male colleagues

The news that five men at the Royal Ballet are jumping ship to throw their lot in with the flamboyant Japanese star Tetsuya Kumakawa has caused a predictable stir. Anything emanating from the Royal Opera House these days is inevitably seen as another nail in the coffin of the nation's premier dance and opera institution. Ever since Covent Garden closed for redevelopment 18 months ago, crisis has followed crisis, and the way ahead has become increasingly unclear. In an atmosphere of such insecurity about the future, dancers are bound to lose heart.

So it is not surprising that five of them are leaving mid-season. Gary Avis, Stuart Cassidy, Matthew Dibble, Michael Nunn and William Trevitt handed in their resignations to the Royal Ballet's director, Anthony Dowell, on Friday, just before the company's performance at Belfast's Grand Opera House. They will leave after the Christmas season at London's Festival Hall, giving Dowell just a few months to find enough dancers to perform on the regional Dance Bites tour, which starts on March 1.

Dowell is clearly furious. "I feel I have to express my disappointment at the way in which these dancers have chosen to handle their departure," he said in a statement. "There have been rumours about this

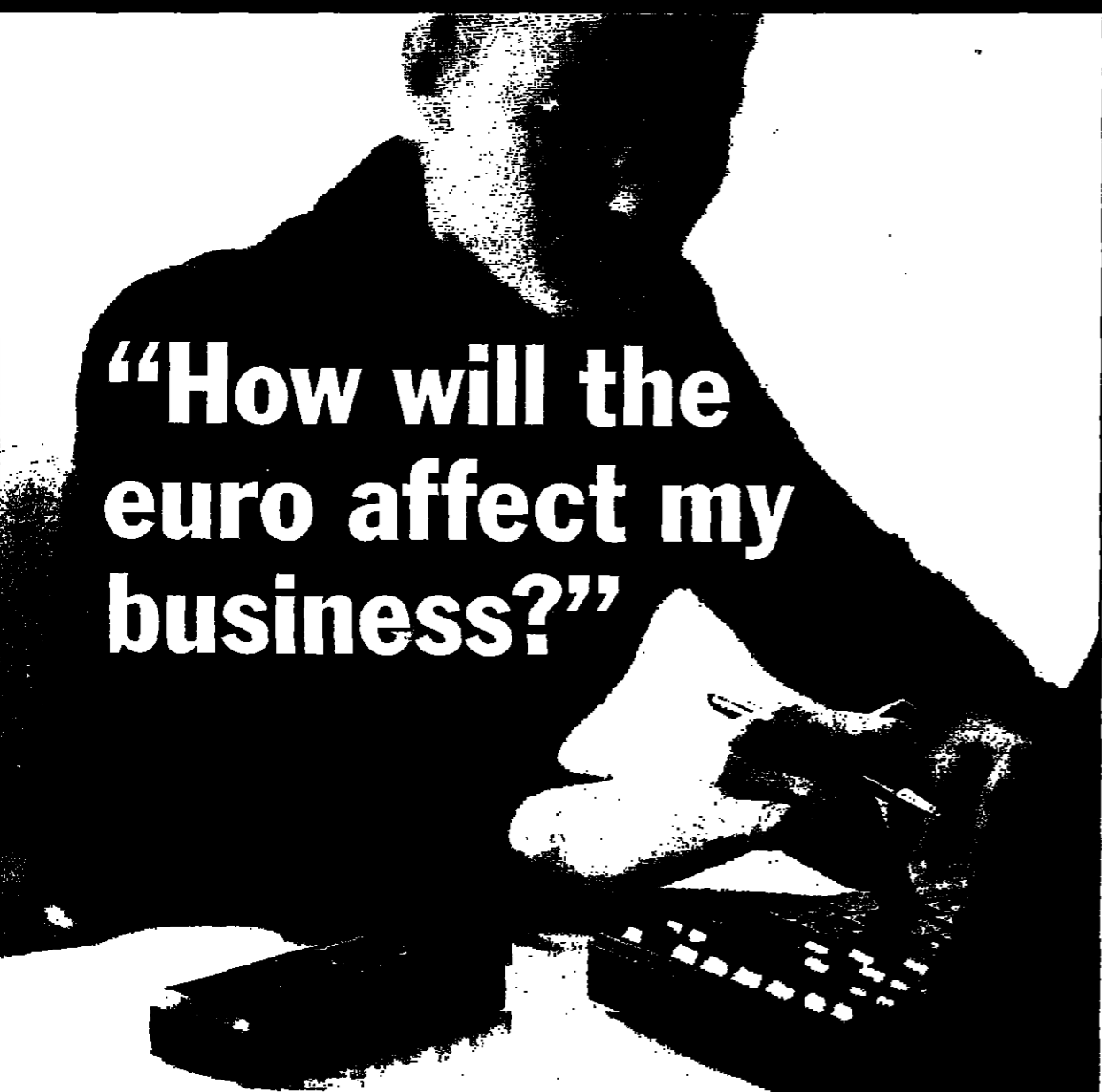
quit last month, was one of the Royal's top draws, but he had long been keen to strike out on his own. He is the figurehead of the new London-based company, backed by Japanese money (incredibly generous, by all accounts), which plans to perform in London and Japan. Ballet is wildly popular in Japan, and Kumakawa is its biggest Japanese star.

So far, only male colleagues are joining his enterprise, but the betting is that some of the Royal's women will also be tempted. Morale in the company is extremely low and contract negotiations are still dragging on between dancers and management. So the lure of fresh artistic challenges coupled with big money elsewhere is understandably appealing, despite the risky nature of the venture.

Michael Kaiser, Covent Garden's newly arrived executive director, is well aware of the dark mood of his dancers. "Certainly it is an insecure time at the Royal Opera House and the lack of security is felt," he says. "But we are working hard to get through this period, and I think we will."

He points to the experience of his last employer, American Ballet Theatre. "At ABT we lost over ten dancers in the past year. But companies change; they find new artists. And replacements add vigour and excitement to a company."

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تعداد من الاصل

Kerr gives way to Gloucester owner

By Mark Souster

TOM WALKINSHAW, the owner of Gloucester and the Arrows motor racing team, was elected yesterday as the new chairman of English First Division Rugby (EFD).

Walkinshaw succeeds Donald Kerr, who had indicated his desire to step down and not seek re-election after three years in the post.

Kerr, at the forefront of the club's campaign during their dispute with the Rugby Football Union (RFU), said: "I wish Tom well. The last three years have been a challenging time, and I think we can now see light at the end of the tunnel."

Walkinshaw led the club's delegation that negotiated the Mayfair Agreement in May with the RFU, which brought an element of stability to the game but failed to ensure a lasting peace.

Brian Balster, the RFU chairman, has said that Walkinshaw is "a man I can do business with".

Walkinshaw bought control of Gloucester for £23 million in April last year. He will also serve as one of four EFD representatives on the English Rugby Partnership board.

Kerr was instrumental in the recent commissioning of Deloitte and Touche, the management consultants, to conduct a strategic review of the game's domestic structure.

RUGBY UNION: MACQUEEN HAPPY TO EXPERIMENT AGAINST ENGLAND AT TWICKENHAM

Australia adopt new arrivals

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SINCE a clammy Brisbane night in June, Australia have made signal advances in the global game to a position where only South Africa can claim a better record.

The first of 13 internationals in 1998 brought Rod Macqueen's players a record 76-0 win against an indifferently prepared and desperately weakened England.

They will do so with the same party that procured a 32-21 victory against France in Paris on Saturday. That will take David Wilson, the Queensland flanker, to his sixtieth international appearance.

Wilson, who is expected to make his sixtieth appearance for Australia in the Cook Cup match on Saturday together as a team; we had eight new players. Now he has lost eight of his front-line players but is happy to expose others to the international stage.

Macqueen said, "but we are happy with the resolve in the team and the maturity they have shown." That Latham and Grey can find their way into the international game alongside such experienced players as Jason Little and George Gregan is a substantial bonus.

Paterson has held office since early last year, during which time the stock of Scotland in world rugby has tumbled.



Wilson, who is expected to make his sixtieth appearance for Australia in the Cook Cup match on Saturday

Macqueen said, "but we are happy with the resolve in the team and the maturity they have shown." That Latham and Grey can find their way into the international game alongside such experienced players as Jason Little and George Gregan is a substantial bonus; that they are learning to cope with cold, wet conditions, in training as well as

playing, will serve them well during the World Cup campaign in Ireland next year. Gloucester hope to add Kingsley Jones to their back-row resources after Ebbw Vale found themselves forced to put their best players up for sale.

Paul Sampson, the Wasps wing capped by England against South Africa in Cape Town in July, plays for Mickey Steele-Bodger's XV in the annual match against Cambridge University at Grange Road this afternoon.

John Fidler, the Gloucester team manager, said: "Negotiations are at an early stage with the player and Ebbw Vale, but, with injuries to Simon Devereux and Pete Glanville, we are thin on the ground in the back row."

Paterson put on defensive

THE general state of rugby in Scotland, and the efficiency of its administration in particular, will come under scrutiny tonight at a specially convened meeting of the general committee of the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) at Murrayfield.

Paterson has held office since early last year, during which time the stock of Scotland in world rugby has tumbled.

attach no direct blame to the former international scrum half for those setbacks, they have been scathing over the union's worsening financial state and the turmoil that has beset the game.

Last week, it was learned that the SRU's indebtedness had grown to almost £17 million. Much of that can be attributed to the policy of employing most of the country's leading players on full-time SRU contracts.

Lomu prepares special day for youngsters

JONAH LOMU will be in Kent on Sunday morning taking a coaching session for the mini and junior sections at Thanet Wanderers RFC in Broadstairs.



The All Black apparently jumped at the chance to spend some time with the youngsters and local sponsors were quick to offer financial assistance to help to raise money for the National Children's Liver Disease Foundation.

Premature exit At 2.45 pm on Saturday, two intrepid Italy supporters turned up at the Huddersfield Town FC ticket office asking for seats that they had bought just half an hour before.

Well-fed Lions If the unbeaten 1974 Lions thought that their tour was hard going, the 25th anniversary reunion next year promises to be even more demanding.

Cash-strapped Things don't get easier for Will Carting. A jockstrap that once belonged to the fallen idol went under the hammer after the Welsh Varsity match between Cardiff and Swansea last week.

Banbury fare The under-21 international between England and South Africa at Banbury RFC's new Bodicote Park ground next Tuesday rekindles memories of the last big game hosted by Banbury, 30 years ago to the day.

Hastings battle Gavin Hastings has finally laid to rest the ghost of New Zealand. The former Scotland and Lions captain, who came so close to winning a series against the All Blacks in 1993, led a Classic Lions team to victory over the old enemy in the final of the World Classics tournament in Bermuda.

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WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25 1998

Newcastle insist £8 million signing will partner Shearer and not replace him
Gullit gives Ferguson his head

By GEORGE CAULKIN AND STEPHEN WOOD

SOMETIMES it takes a simple picture to underline the weight of countless words...

Having spent much of the weekend describing his inheritance as a "relegation team"...

Much to the chagrin of his legion of supporters in the blue half of Merseyside...

His arrival comes amid another spate of speculation surrounding the position of Alan Shearer...

Gullit's contention yesterday that Shearer is "not for sale"...

"As far as I am concerned, I am staying at Newcastle United," he said...



Ferguson leaves St James' Park yesterday after emerging from talks over his unexpected £8 million move from Everton to Newcastle United.

know what the board and the manager are thinking. Confusing agendas are clearly being set...

For Ferguson, it offers a fresh chance and a new challenge. "He is very happy to come," Gullit said...

fresh chance and a new challenge. "He is very happy to come," Gullit said...

The deal was prepared in advance of Newcastle's visit to Goodison and Smith knew nothing of it until he was informed by Peter Johnson...

future. However, he was present at a board meeting yesterday when the dispute was resolved.

Smith said: "I was very disappointed about Duncan leaving, but more so about the circumstances in which the whole thing took place. I did not know anything about it until late on Monday night and that is not right."

"I had to sit down and take stock of the situation and try not to get involved in knee-jerk reactions. Eventually, I thought about the money we have spent here this season...

the suspect temperament of a player who attracts disciplinary trouble as regularly as he finds the net...

"Instead of walking away, I had discussions with a few people and, as a result, I am happy to stay manager of Everton."

However, none of the money from the sale of Ferguson will be available for Smith to bring in replacements...

Gullit, meanwhile, must now try to succeed where others have failed in controlling...

Ferguson was involved in a head-butting incident with John McStay, an offence that eventually saw him serve a six-week prison sentence in Barlinnie Prison in Glasgow...

Since Smith, who sold Ferguson to Everton for £4 million in 1994, succeeded Howard Kendall, a host of clubs have inquired about Ferguson's availability...

Manchester United received planning permission yesterday to extend the capacity of their Old Trafford stadium...

United will build a new tier of seating above the existing East and West stands...

United's plans to expand granted

By STEPHEN WOOD

MANCHESTER United received planning permission yesterday to extend the capacity of their Old Trafford stadium...

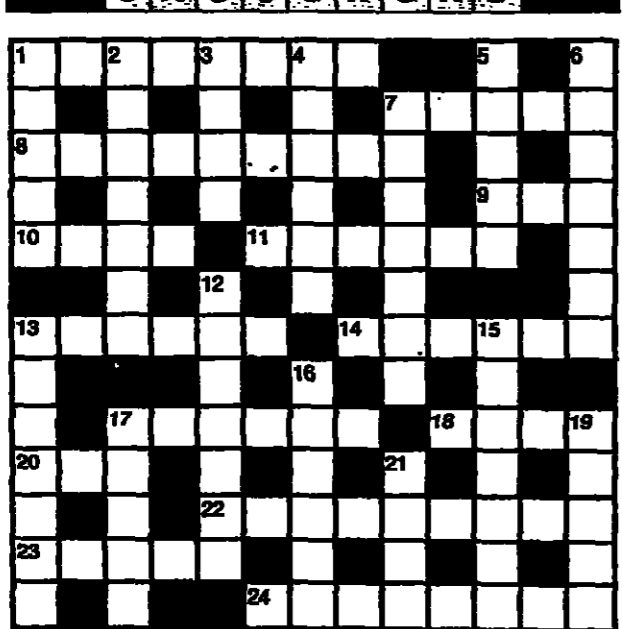
United will build a new tier of seating above the existing East and West stands...

United, therefore, made certain concessions to Trafford council. The £20 million cost includes a £1 million donation towards a package designed to improve street cleaning...

Barnsley, of the Nationwide League first division, are hopeful of signing Carlton Palmer from Southampton...

Chester City and Halifax Town, both of the Nationwide League third division, have been charged with failing to control their players by the FA...

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

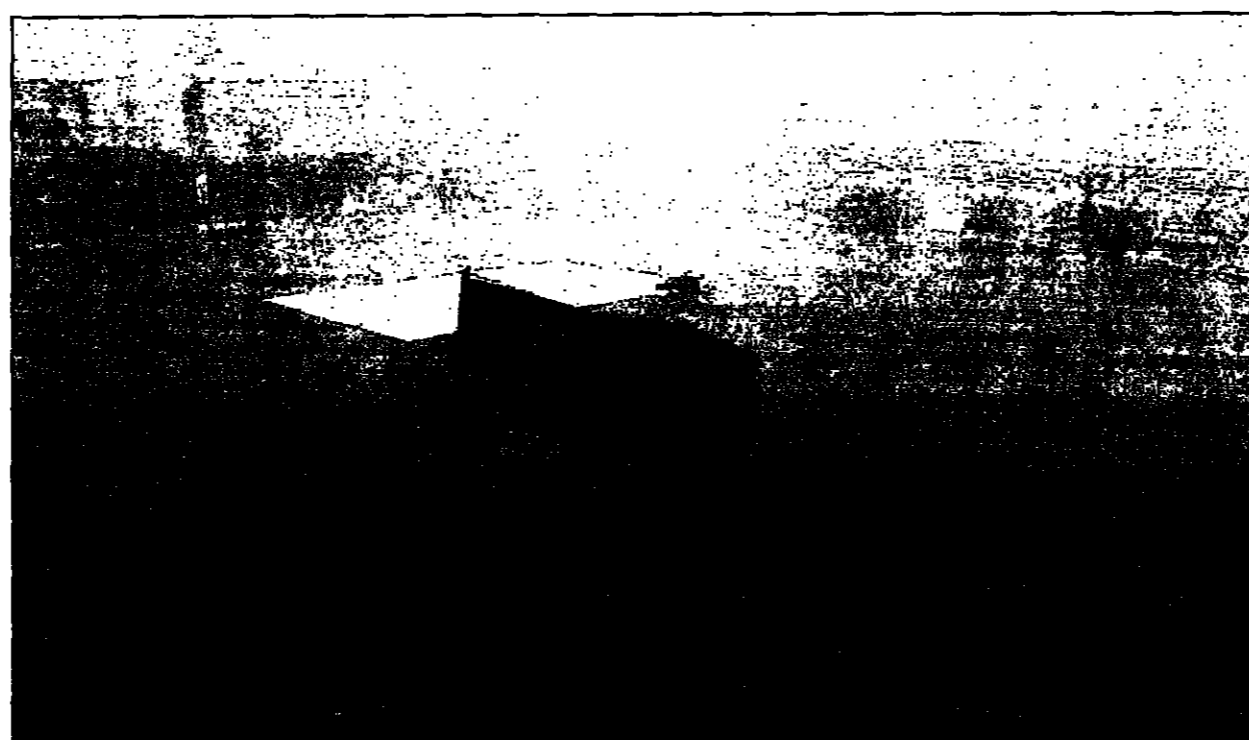


No 1572

- ACROSS: 1 Improvident (8), 7 Swine; apply water to (wound) (5), 8 Order; act of imprisonment (9), 9 White wine/cassis drink (3), 10 Pare; neat (4), 11 Take away; Billy Bunter's form (6), 13 Missing company (6), 14 A football club; a suit (6), 17 Knock about; a food cooking (6), 18 Rough attempt; attack with knife (4), 20 A tree sounds like pelt (3), 22 Remiss (9), 23 T S - poet (5), 24 Intensity (8)

- SOLUTION TO NO 1571: ACROSS: 4 Augur, 7 Quixotic, 8 Fish, 9 Kamikaze, 10 Shroud, 13 Mahout, 14 Squawk, 15 Vertex, 18 Transfer, 19 Port, 20 Demijohn, 21 Payee. DOWN: 1 Squint, 2 Zither, 3 Low-key, 4 Activate, 5 Gadabout, 6 Reject, 11 Unusually, 12 Downside, 14 Satrap, 15 Virgil (Vergil), 16 Raptor, 17 Equine

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England shown in bad light

They would have needed searchlights, never mind floodlights, to look for survivors if the players had still been on the field when the storm that washed out the first Test broke over the Galiba yesterday...

with England's six specialist batsmen out and Cork and Croft fighting for survival. Taylor had already taken off his fastest bowler...

said. "This was introduced in Sheffield Shield cricket two years ago and I am sure that the ICC will eventually make a ruling that it should happen wherever floodlights are available."

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